Daily Report

Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-96-142
Tuesday
23 July 1996

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FBIS-SOV-96-142 *23 July 1996*

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CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 23 Jul

LD2307060796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0556 GMT 23 Jul 96

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 23 (Itar-Tass) - Follows a review of Tuesday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers dated July 23.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on the reform process in the regions.

"(Boris) Yeltsin's electoral win has completed an important stage in the building of new Russian statehood. Things have been straightened out securely only at the Federal level of power, albeit in general outline. New tasks arise, opening up a new stage — the penetration of state reforms into regions," Presidential Council Member Leonid Smirnyagin writes in an article headlined "Gubernatorial elections are no less important to the country than presidential ones".

Smirnyagin expresses the hope that the public will pay most close attention precisely to gubernatorial elections.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on the situation in Chechnya.

In an article headlined "Peace explodes when Groznyy gets mined", Akmal Saydov, the Russian government's Deputy Plenipotentiary Representative in the Chechen Republic, expresses his opinion about the causes of the sharp aggravation of the situation in Chechnya.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an article by Tatyana Korupayeva about the work of recently instituted Internal Security Board at Moscow's Police Department.

IZVESTIYA on journalistic inquiry into corruption case in Maritime Territory.

The first instalment of a series of articles on corruption deals with a journalistic inquiry by Igor Korolkov into the case involving former Mayor of Vladivostok Viktor Cherepkov who was dismissed for bribery. The journalist believes that Maritime Territory is riddled with corruption perhaps deeper than other regions of the country.

IZVESTIYA on school graduates' growing desire to enter institutions of higher learning.

Sergey Leskov gives a picture of the present-day system of higher education in comment on a remarkable fact — 93 per cent of this year's school graduates want to enter higher learning establishments.

IZVESTIYA on government measures to fill budget revenue funding.

Mikhail Berger surveys government measures to fill budget revenue funding, emphasising an unusual nature of some proposals, For example, people who leave Russia for travel abroad will have to pay ten dollars at the border soon.

TRUD on Altai area used as proving ground in the 1950s.

The newspaper reports that Ulagan District of the Republic of Altai since the 1950s has been used as a proving ground where the separating second stages of spacecraft booster rockets used to fall, and describes the consequences of the "experiment" for people's health and the unique natural environment.

TRUD recalls the story of the deporation of the Chechens and Ingushes by the Stalinist regime in 1944.

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on inquiry into nickel-producing amalgamation's privatisation.

In an interview with the newspaper, State Duma Member Pyotr Romanov describes the work of the Duma commission for scrutiny of the privatisation of Russian "Norilsk nickel" joint-stock company.

SEVODNYA frontpages an article about talks between a Russian delegation and an IMF mission on the implementation of the economic stabilisation programme.

PRAVDA on the critique of some groups of intellectuals.

State Duma Member Alexey Zotikov criticises some "groups" of intellectuals who "serve the interests of the authorities" and cautions the clergy against such collaboration.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA carries an article by Anatoliy Gromyko under the headline "About the limits of the 'rights to self-determination'".

IZVESTIYA runs its special correspondents dispatches from the Atlanta Olympics.

CIS: Official on Integration Within Commonwealth 'Nucleus'

MM2307103996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 96 p 7

[Report by Sergey Karkhanin: "Borders Are Not Necessary. The 'Union of Four' Integration Committee Meets 25-26 July in Moscow" — from the "Economic Union" supplement]

[FBIS Translated Text] This union of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia is rightly called the nucleus of the Commonwealth. In the words of the Integration Committee chairman, Kazakhstani First Vice

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Premier Nigmatzhan Isingarin, "the four" can be compared with the group of leaders in a cycle race: They are outstripping the rest in integrating their economic systems. And the main problem that they need to resolve this year is connected with the states' customs union.

This can be considered accomplished if 10 conditions are successfully fulfilled. Four of them have already been achieved, two have been partially reached, and four are still in the preparatory stage. The Integration Committee plans to complete this work by October with the aid of interstate and intergovernmental agreements, so that the other states of the Commonwealth can take account of these conditions and, if they wish, sign up to the customs union.

Economic borders in the form of various duties, quotas, and licenses hamper economic entities from cooperating no less than state borders. That is why, in the words of Nigmatzhan Isingarin, it is planned to include the leaders of the customs services on the board of the Integration Committee. In view of the fact that Kazakhstan's economic contacts have been "plugged into" the markets of Russian Siberia for centuries, resuming these links means boosting production and preserving people's jobs.

The Integration Committee, Nigmatzhan Isingarin believes, is capable of becoming the coordinator of the basic decisions on a customs union. However, for this, joint work must be set up with other CIS organs. The Committee's concerns do not end with the problems of economic borders, of course. Setting up a common transport system, standardizing value-added tax and excise duties, and creating a unified education area are also tasks that the "four" will face in the foreseeable future.

Speaking about the long-term prospects, Isingarin singles out two levels of integration. At the top the states' leaderships are forming conditions for successful collaboration among regions and enterprises; and these conditions are being exploited at a lower level. For economic entities production is not the only problem: It is also necessary to find cheap raw materials and a market to sell their output. And here interstate treaties and agreements are essential.

The other day Nigmatzhan Isingarin, as chairman of the Integration Committee, received an official certificate signed by the Russian Federation president; this means that Isingarin will not be treated as a "foreigner" in Russian ministries.... And he has a forthcoming business trip to Ukraine on the instructions of the Kazakhstani government. During this Isingarin intends to tell Kiev how the Integration Committee operates. Perhaps the Ukrainians will listen.

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Russia: U.S. Consultants' Role in Yeltsin Victory Dismissed

MK1907140196 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 19 Jul 96 p 4

[Report by Aleksandr Sadchikov: "Rumors About the Americans' Role Are Greatly Exaggerated"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Despite a plethora of recent scandals and revelations we evidently still miss sensations, for which reason our press does its best to import them from overseas. This is how we should interpret reprints from the U.S. TIME magazine concerning U.S. specialists' participation in the work of Boris Yeltsin's electoral headquarters. Notably, this material was reprinted by both the democratic IZVESTIYA and the Communist's propaganda mouthpiece, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA. So to whom does the current head of state actually owe his victory? First of all, we should recall the crux of the matter. Last week, TIME magazine reported that Boris Yeltsin's electoral headquarters allegedly hired a team of American consultants for $250,000. The magazine claimed that the Americans were tasked with supervising the president's television campaign. This team of consultants was headed by none other than Tatyana Dyachenko, Yeltsin's daughter. The Americans allegedly had a large suite on the 11th floor of the President Hotel, but they bent over backwards to deny their role in the headquarters, which was located in the same building, passing themselves off as representatives of a television sales firm. The names of the consultants were also revealed. These were George Gorton, campaign manager of California Governor Pete Wilson; Stephen Moore, public relations specialist from Washington, D.C.; Joe Shumate, the U.S. Republican Party's analytical expert; and Richard Dresner, who advised that same Wilson. According to TIME, these people were assembled into a team and brought to Moscow by Felix Braynin, an emigrant from Belarus, who has grown rich in the United States by advising U.S. businessmen on investment in the CIS economies. Yet, these names ring no bell with an ordinary Russian. Speculation has mounted over the Americans' very involvement in the operation of the presidential headquarters and their alleged shadow role in Boris Yeltsin's victory. As a headquarters member who worked there from mid-April until recently, I dare say that this is not true. Any shadow role of the Americans in Boris Yeltsin's victory is out of the question for several reasons. First, I personally did not meet any Americans during the two and a half months of my presence at the headquarters. A snap poll among my colleagues from the headquarters has produced no positive results either — none of them remembered any Americans. Second, there was no need for them for purely functional reasons. It is worth pointing out that Boris Yeltsin's headquarters was a complex organism. What I mean is the headquarters per se, not the top figures from the president's inner circle, such as Dyachenko, Ilyushin, and Satarov, who have often been called a headquarters. And this is how the headquarters operated in reality: Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Yarov headed the executive on top of his day job; that is, he fulfilled organizational functions. Sergey Filatov, who headed the All-Russia Movements for Boris Yeltsin's Public Support, was in charge of public relations in the regions and the dissemination of propaganda materials. NTV President Igor Malashenko (and not the mythical Americans) supervised the campaign in the electronic media. Anatoliy Chubays, who recently became the presidential chief of staff, dealt with analytical and, so to speak, financial support for the campaign. All these elements functioned autonomously, without interfering in one another's jurisdiction, while smoothly coordinating their efforts. It is difficult to judge whose contribution to the campaign proved to be more important. To this end, one needs to have all the information on every aspect of this work. In my subjective view, the most difficult work was performed precisely by the headquarters executive and personally by Yuriy Yarov and Andrey Loginov, who headed the administration for work with parties and political organization in the previous presidential staff. It would take many months even for the most experienced foreign manager or adviser to visualize the entire structure of the headquarters, to assess objectively its formal and actual hierarchy, to grasp all the subtleties existing in collaboration between its subdivisions. Yet there was neither the time nor money or, most important, desire on the part of the headquarters' top persons to initiate foreigners into these subtleties. [passage omitted]

Russia: ZAVTRA Portrays Chubays as King-Maker Controlled by U.S.

MK2007100196 Moscow ZAVTRA in Russian No. 29, Jul 96 (signed to press 16 Jul 1996) p 1

[Unattributed 'field reports by the DEN security service']

[FBIS Translated Text] An analytical memo prepared by the now-disbanded Presidential Security Service [SBP] says that the decision to appoint Chubays was made by Yeltsin under pressure from his family and was announced on the day of the arrival of Gore, who in turn brought Yeltsin a secret message urging the return to a radical monetarist economic policy model. B.N. [Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin], in a certain sense, upstaged the ultimatum by the White House, which needs proof of Russia's full controllability ahead of the U.S. presidential elections. Meanwhile, a major

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role in promoting Chubays' candidacy, according to the same source, was played in the last few days by U.S. financial g[illegible]os that received substantial chunks of Russian property in the process of privatization and that seek the legalization of the distribution of joint-stock company stakes and real estate. The groups that promoted Chubays, both in the United States and in Moscow, include the Quantum group (G. Soros), Goldman and Sachs, and CS First Boston. The main argument used in Moscow to this end was that "in the face of an imminent financial debacle, Gore could get private banks to buy up the Russian internal debt and inject some $5-7 billion only with Chubays being used as 'pledge and security.'" An informed source says that Yeltsin made this move out of the hopelessness of the economic situation and his sharply deteriorating health. According to this source Chubays used Yeltsin's wife Naina and his daughters to establish a virtually complete diktat in the Kremlin bureaucratic apparatuses immediately after the outcome of the elections became known. The institution of presidential aides (which formerly functioned independently) was merged with Boris Yeltsin's staff and secretariat. Thus, precisely Chubays has received exclusive control over Yeltsin's contacts with the outside world and with it, in effect, the possibility to dictate on behalf of the president with all the ensuing consequences, including full manipulation of the premier. Meanwhile, the memo concludes, the opposition is getting a historic chance to thwart any attempt to form a broad anti-Communist bloc both in the legislative agencies and beyond, because the rejection of Chubays by the local elites and the power structures is so strong that it rules out even the slightest possibility of the forced dissolution of the State Duma or political parties....

Outgoing ranking FSB and SBP officers report that on 26 April 1995 they transferred to the leadership of the State Duma and the Communist Party material on financial abuses by First Deputy Finance Minister Vavilov, directly implicating Chernomyrdin, with the aim of giving the premier a vote of no confidence. This was done exclusively on the presumption that the evolving Chubays-Chernomyrdin tandem will act to the detriment of Russia's interests. In this connection the State Duma was expected, on 5 May, to take action giving the opposition a new chance and precluding domination by Chubays and Chernomyrdin in the event of a Yeltsin victory....

According to confidential reports from Chubays' inner circle, the government's priority macroeconomic measures will include the following: further tightening of credit and financial policy (growth in nonpayments and inter-enterprise debt); active denationalization and the selling-off of basic assets — predominantly to wealthy foreign firms; the direct sale, in exchange for internal and external debt, of natural resources and tracts of "unwanted" territory; sequestration of the assets of large oil and other energy enterprises, including their direct auctioning-off (Nizhnevartovskneftegaz, Yukos, and others being among the first priorities); the abolition of all regional tax and financial benefits; and pressure on the local regional administrations. The main line of the macroeconomic strike will be a radical revision of the land code by de facto granting the heads of local administrations additional rights to approve land transactions. The latter should create the requisite conditions for weakening the "Red Belt" in Russia's rural areas. Reportedly, there is a widespread belief in Chubays' inner circle: "demographic cleansing" will help to drastically change the balance of forces and bring new population groups to new territories....

Democratic circles in Moscow are actively engaged in purging the power structures and bringing in their people to key positions, the primary targets being the heads of the Defense Ministry, Internal Affairs Ministry, and State Customs Committee. According to our sources at the Yabloko faction a preliminary conference was held in Zhukovka [near Moscow] that decided to launch a tough anti-corruption drive against [Internal Affairs] Minister Kulikov and State Customs Committee Chairman Kruglov. It was deemed necessary to work toward their replacement, using TV and the Security Council to this end. Priority, however, is to be given to promoting the right candidate for the post of defense minister (Nikolayev, Mironov, Kokoshin) in order to divide the military department into a number of subministries. This was in fact the aim of the arrival in Moscow by the U.S. defense secretary as part of the Gore delegation. New purges and appointments should be expected in the next few days...

According to government sources, immediately after Chubays' appointment there emerged a state of suspense and an expectation of the ouster of officials responsible for particular sectors of industry. Meanwhile, the struggle for government seats is growing among radical democrats. The position of first deputy premier is being claimed by Ilyushin, Livshits, Baturin, Shakhray, and Yavlinskiy. As a result mutual mudslinging is on the rise. New sensational revelations should be expected in the very near future....

According to confidential reports from Moscow mafia-style structures, three weeks ago one grouping received substantial hard-currency funds to organize a series of terrorist acts in Moscow that will be passed off as a "Chechen trail" and will serve as a cause for cracking down on the Chechen grouping and other Caucasians in

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Moscow. Meanwhile, the main objective of these explosions is to provoke a mass psychosis to prepare for the withdrawal of troops from Chechnya and to discredit the newly appointed Security Council Secretary, Gen. Lebed. It is expected that patriotically minded generals in the Defense Ministry will be discharged more quickly and replaced by people ready to ensure Russia's unconditional withdrawal from this Caucasus region.

Russia: Government, U.S. Cooperate on Nuclear Defense Conversion

LD2207143896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1324 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 22 (Interfax) — Russia and the United States have developed specific measures in the area of the conversion of Russian defense nuclear companies and have begun implementing corresponding joint projects, the Nuclear Energy Committee under the Russian-U.S. Commission for Economic and Technological Cooperation said in a report made available to Interfax.

The Russian-U.S. Commission, headed by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and U.S. Vice President Al Gore, met in Moscow on July 15-16.

Russia and the United States have already created several joint ventures, the report says.

In particular, the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry and the United States Energy Conversion Devices (ECD) in February 1996 agreed to create a joint venture to produce optical CDs with technology from ECD and Russia's Luch scientific and production company. The project is expected to pay off in two or three years.

The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry, ECD and the Russian-U.S. joint venture Sovlaks plan to produce environmentally-friendly silicon-based photoconverters.

Under an agreement signed in 1995, the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry and the United States' General Atomics began to fund the initial stage of the project to create a modular gas-cooled helium reactor with a gas-turbine cycle capable of utilizing accumulated weapons-grade plutonium in an effective fashion.

However, the supply of Russian high technology and materials to the United States and the import by Russia of U.S. high technology, equipment and materials remain limited, the report says. In particular, Russia has so far failed to acquire a license to purchase supercomputers to resolve defense conversion problems facing Russian nuclear centers.

Russia: Outside Arbitration in Chechnya Will Be Rejected

MM2207140996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 96 p 5

["Topical commentary" by Vladimir Kuznechevskiy: "We Will Sort Out Our Affairs Ourselves, Gentlemen"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Close analysis of recent assessments of the development of the Chechen events in the Western mass media might lead you to conclude that one or two people in the West would not be averse to transferring the "Balkan syndrome" to Russia as well. What was all this about?

The course of events in Bosnia-Herzegovina shows that this territory is nowadays more reminiscent of an OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] protectorate than a sovereign state. Even the elections of the legislature and executive are taking place here under the direct control of Robert Frowick, chairman of the OSCE electoral commission, who arbitrarily postpones or, on the contrary, moves forward the date for holding them. This same organization determines the righteous and the guilty in the civil war in Bosnia, and with the aid of NATO troops carries out the arrest of Serbian officers and generals and transfers them to the International Tribune in the Hague. A thoroughly one-sided approach is being adopted here: Not one Croatian or Muslim general has been arrested in Bosnia. Though it is well known that a civil war is never the fault of one side alone.

At the same time, the OSCE is increasingly seeking to take personal control of the peacekeeping process in the North Caucasus. But in this it is evincing a strong "pro-Chechen" approach. In particular, on the OSCE's initiative many Western mass media outlets are directing all reproach and blame for the exacerbation of the armed conflict in Chechnya in recent days exclusively at the Russian Armed Forces.

In this context the fact that prominent politicians in Western countries are increasingly drawing parallels between events in Bosnia and those in Chechnya appears logical. Thus the other day American journalists attacked Strobe Talbott, U.S. first deputy secretary of state, on this front. Asked whether he saw grounds for the International War Crimes Tribunal to institute proceedings into war crimes in Chechnya, Talbott stated outright in response that "there could be such grounds," and in this connection expressed satisfaction that OSCE observers were working in the North Caucasus. No sooner had he finished than official State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns expressed himself in even sharper tones on this subject: "Russia only very recently

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passed a difficult examination in consolidating democracy. But the war in Chechnya does not accord with Russia's development as a democratic state."

You do not have to be a genius to see that this stance on the part of the OSCE and a number of Western politicians could ultimately result in the Hague tribunal's "heeding" the opinion being fostered in the international community and fueling the ambitions of the Chechen separatists. In fact, the Chechen gunmen's leaders have already heeded these signals cast in their direction. On 16 July the BBC reported that Tutakov, a representative of the self-styled Republic of Ichkeria in Moscow, has stated that the leadership of his republic assigns responsibility for the resumption of military operations in Chechnya, and in particular for the destruction of the villages of Gekhi and Makhkety, to Russian Security Council Chairman A. Lebed, and intends to appeal to the International Tribunal in the Hague to institute proceedings against the Russian side.

I think it high time to say that Russia is not Bosnia and does not intend to have foreign troops on its territory. And that means that it will not trust any outsider to solve its internal problems. We will resolve them ourselves. By constitutional means.

Russia: BSF's Participation in Joint Exercises 'Purely Symbolic'

MM2307105096 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Pasyakin: "Cooperative Partner Without Black Sea Fleet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Cooperative Partner 96 exercises have started in the Black Sea, with 25 warships from several NATO countries, as well as from Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine, taking part. Ukraine has sent along the small antisubmarine warfare ship Vinnitsa. The Black Sea Fleet's patrol escort ship Bezukoriznennyy took part in similar exercises in 1994. This year's Cooperative Partner will be held without the Black Sea Fleet.

This fact testifies that the number of exercises in the Black Sea has been growing over the last few years, while the participation of Blacks Sea Fleet ships in them is becoming purely symbolic. The sea-going trawler Zheleznyakov will join the Breeze 96 exercises, scheduled for 10-16 August. The same ship is also scheduled to join the Black Sea Partnership exercises to be held 9-14 September. Turkey's Navy, on the other hand, will be represented by a submarine, a frigate, a destroyer, and four small naval combatants, including missile-carrying ships.

It is evident that the initiative in the Black Sea is now completely in the hands of the navies of NATO countries, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine whose warships participate without fail in all naval exercises in the region. Following the USSR's disintegration, the Russian Navy's representatives have not once been in charge of joint exercises in the Black Sea and now cannot always operate even as ordinary participants. No blame for this attaches to the Black Sea Fleet servicemen, whose main task still is to preserve at least the remnants of the Black Sea Fleet's past might.

Russia: Paratroopers in Bosnia Not To Detain Karadzic, Mladic

LD2207123396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1158 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jul 22 (Interfax) — Russian paratroopers, who are staying in Bosnia together with the multi-national force to fulfill the Dayton agreements, are not participating in the search and detention of Bosnian Serb leaders — former president of the Bosnian Serb republic Radovan Karadzic and army commander Ratko Mladic, commander of the Russian Airborne Troops Colonel General Yevgeniy Podkolzin told Interfax Monday.

"No one has set such a task for Russian peacemakers in Bosnia, and if they did I would order not to abide by this instruction," said the general.

He thinks the resolution of the international tribunal for former Yugoslavia in the Hague on the detention of Karadzic and Mladic should be fulfilled by the international police force instead of servicemen.

The commander referred to the pronouncement of U.S. Vice President Albert Gore who said that U.S. troops will not launch a special operation to detain the Bosnian Serb leaders.

"Participation of Russian paratroopers in detention of Karadzic and Mladic would inevitably entail escalation of tension in Bosnia. It is evident the Serbs would take up arms and use them against anyone who tries to detain their leaders," said the commander.

Russia: Last Group of Paratroopers To Leave for Bosnia 23 Jul

LD2207122196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1159 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 22 (Interfax) — The last group of 53 Russian paratroopers will leave for Bosnia on July 23 to replace servicemen with the multi-national peacekeeping force, commander of the

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Russian Airborne Troops Col. Gen. Yevgeniy Podkolzin told Interfax Monday.

He said 800 out of the 1,600 servicemen of the Russian separate airborne brigade stationed in the Posavina zone will be replaced. They have been in the conflict zone for six months.

The Russian paratroopers are stationed in Bosnia to fulfill the Dayton agreements. They were transported to Tuzla on eight flights by military cargo planes from the military airfields in Ivanovo and Pskov, said the commander.

Before being sent to the conflict zone, the paratroopers had a three-month period of training for peacekeeping duties. They were selected on a contest basis. The paratroopers receive a monthly salary of $1,080 while in Bosnia, Podkolzin said.

Russia: Gazprom Director To Discuss Gas Issue With FRY Leaders

LD2207114796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1105 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — Rem Vyakhirev, director of Russia's biggest gas producer Gazprom, arrived in the Union Republic of Yugoslavia [as received] on Monday to discuss implementation of a Russian-Yugoslav agreement providing for construction of a pipe-line into southern Serbia via Bulgaria.

"I want to discuss setting up a new joint venture (with the purpose) to build a new pipe-line. Sanctions have been lifted, time is passing by, but work has not yet started. We should pool efforts to push forward this job," Vyakhirev said.

"Besides, we should decide the issue of Yugoslavia's payment for Russia's gas in a pipe-line running across Hungary. We supplied Yugoslavia with about two billion cubic metres of gas in 1996. By the end of the year, Yugoslavia's debt may reach 100 million US dollars," according to him.

He plans to discuss all these issues with Serb President Slobodan Milosevic and other top officials.

Russia: Primakov, Indian Foreign Minister View Relations in Jakarta

LD2207113896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1025 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jakarta, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — Russia's recent presidential elections are a sign of stability and predictability of Russian foreign policy and of progressive development of relations between the two countries, Inder Kumar Gujral, Indian Minister of External Affairs, told Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov here on Monday during their meeting that was held outside the framework of ASEAN's international forums which the two ministers will attend this week, a Russian spokesman has told Itar-Tass.

For his part, Primakov told Mr. Gujral that he expects him to visit Moscow in autumn this year. The two ministers also discussed the situation in Asia as a whole and issues connected with that in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, in particular. The Russian minister informed Mr. Gujral of steps being taken by Russian diplomats to stabilise the situation in that Central Asian Republic, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin said.

"The need for the release of the Russian air pilots, who are held hostage in Kandahar (Afghanistan) was also touched upon separately and quite substantively" during the two ministers meeting, Karasin said.

Among other matters, the two ministers also touched upon Russo-Indian cooperation in the military-and-technical sphere, the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out.

"The need for the release of the Russian air pilots which are held hostage in Kandahar (Afghanistan) was also touched upon separately and quite substantively," Karasin said.

"Yevgeniy Primakov and I did not discuss the nuclear problem today," Mr. Gujral told Itar-Tass immediately after his meeting with the Russian foreign minister. What he meant was India's refusal to put its signature to the text of a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT), which is being prepared. In this connection, India is being pressurised, primarily by the United States, into signing the CTBT. New Delhi argues that the Indian nuclear programme is aimed at upholding national interests.

"India and Russia have a long history of friendship. Our principal aim today was to strengthen the existing ties of cooperation and discuss ways to broaden it," Mr. Gujral said.

An understanding on a number of matters concerning, in particular, the situation in Central Asia and Afghanistan was reached during the meeting, the Indian minister said.

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Russia: Primakov Meets Vietnamese Counterpart in Jakarta

LD2207173296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Andrey Bychkov and Viktor Khrekov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] JAKARTA, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — Russia's foreign policy aims at diversifying and improving relations with the outside world, including with Vietnam, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov said.

In an interview with Itar-Tass after his meeting with Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam in Jakarta on Monday, Primakov said that "in the very beginning, when we had to correct our relations with Western countries, our former foes in the Cold War era, we focused our efforts on that. That's why at that time Moscow thought less about the need to diversify its relations. But now this is on the agenda and it is quite natural that are friends, such as Vietnam, are among our partners."

He stressed that both Russia and Vietnam are interested in improving their bilateral relations and boosting cooperation in political, economic, military, technical and other areas.

Vietnam is a member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Russia is its full dialogue partner.

Russia: Defense Chief Delivers 100 New Tanks to Bulgaria

LD2207113396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1055 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 22 (Interfax) — Andrey Kokoshin, Russia's first deputy defense chief, flew to Bulgaria to hand over, free of charge, 100 T-72 tanks and as many army vehicles to that country, a defense ministry source told Interfax.

This comes as part of Russia's compliance with its obligations under the Conventional Forces in Europe [CFE] agreement, Stoyan Topalov, Bulgaria's army, naval and air force attache to Moscow, told Interfax.

For its part, Bulgaria is committed to scrap the same amount of older generation armory to stay within CFE-set limits on conventional arms, the source said.

Russia: Antagonistic Ties With Islamic World Eyed

MM2207122196 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 3

[Article by Doctor of Historical Sciences Yevgeniy Pyrlin, corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences: "Russia and the Islamic World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The events of the last two decades have extremely adversely affected the state of relations between our state and the Islamic world and have seriously complicated these relations. Let us recall just a few facts.

— The introduction of the "limited contingent" of Soviet forces into Afghanistan and the subsequent long war, which was savage on both sides and which was futile from the outset.

The lack of knowledge of and the lack of desire to understand the specific characteristics of Afghanistan and the peculiarities of the domestic situation in that country, where the April (1979) revolution was largely led by the elite and was even an "imported" phenomenon, the clear unwillingness of the essentially "traditionalist" Afghan society to accept socialist ideas — all this was ignored. The eradication of the threat to our country's southern borders, even if it did exist really or potentially, could have been accomplished effectively enough by political means excluding the introduction of troops. As we know, the Afghan conflagration blazes to this day, and the tragedy of Tajikistan is a direct result of the bloody power struggle in neighboring Afghanistan and our direct and clumsy interference in this country's internal affairs.

— Russia's military-political actions in Chechnya are making an extremely negative impression on the Islamic world. The war being waged there, the cause and catalyst of which was the fight over Chechen oil, has already turned — with its many thousands of casualties on both sides, with the destruction of material assets worth many billions [currency not specified] which took decades to create — into a Russian national tragedy. If the fight against Dzhokhar Dudayev's criminal regime can still be regarded as a fight to preserve Russia's territorial integrity, then the numerous bloody "cleanups," the reprisals against local inhabitants even in those areas of Chechnya which have officially affirmed their loyalty to the central authorities, the total destruction of Groznyy, and the savage artillery bombardments of and bombing raids on Chechen cities and villages, which are being carried out with the Kremlin's approval and connivance, have made Russian-Chechen relations hostile for many decades to come.

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The Islamic world sees the Chechen war as a new version of the Caucasian War, therefore the participation in it of numerous representatives of "Muslim" states — Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia — is no accident.

— First bewilderment and annoyance and then alarm and indignation were caused in the Islamic world by our state's leaders' ill-advised and hasty actions to forge "alliance relations" with the United States supporting the U.S. Administration's anti-Iraqi and anti-Libyan actions. For the sake of the triumph of the ill-starred "new political thinking," to which the good-for-nothing first Soviet president prayed as if to an icon, our country sacrificed relations with practically the entire Arab world — a substantial part of the Islamic world.

All this has led to an increase in negative aspects in relations between Russia and the Islamic world, to the emergence in these relations of nodes of confrontation and conflict, to an increase in mutual wariness and alienation, and to an appreciable intensification of nationalist sentiments. The tendency to equate national and religious and to explain particular outbreaks of nationalist radicalism in policy by arguments taken from the arsenal of Islamic religion, which is clearly manifest in the politics of many "Muslim" states, is extremely dangerous to the prospects of Russia's relations with the Islamic world, with the Islamic near and far abroad. In fact the principle of "parliaments are for politicians and mosques are for mullahs" is not observed in a single "Muslim" country.

The outbreak of nationalist sentiments in fledgling Central Asian states, former Soviet Union republics, is keeping pace with the revival there of Islam, Islamic traditions, and nationalism. This nationalist outbreak is expressed, in particular, in a number of legislative acts enshrining the dominant position of titular nations. The negative side of this situation is the blatant discrimination against the Russian and Russian-speaking population, which contradicts generally accepted norms of international law and runs counter to a number of very important international documents regulating and defining the nature of interethnic relations in modern states, for example the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations back in 1948.

Russians' position as "second-class citizens" in the emerging Central Asian states, although it is the efforts of the Russians there that ensure the successful operation of many industrial sectors and the uninterrupted work of transport and communications, is by all accounts of no particular concern to the Russian leadership. The Kremlin usually recalls the situation of Russians outside the Russian Federation only on the eve of elections or other events held in Russia on a nationwide scale.

The leaderships and certain political figures in the nascent Central Asian states are trying to forget how Russia economically took these republics in hand and pumped funds into them which could have been successfully used to develop the Russian economy.

The marked distancing from Russia and the statements about commitment to universal Muslim values which Central Asian states' leading politicians repeatedly delivered after gaining independence have not gone unnoticed either in the West or in Islamic countries of the far abroad, especially Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. The leaderships of the latter category saw the fledgling Central Asian states as their potential political allies and supporters and as objects for political penetration and economic expansion. The words of the late Imam Khomeyni that "the Muslims in Iran will not end their struggle until universal Islamic rule has been established" sound naive in many respects, but it remains a fact that the "Islamic wave" has not bypassed Central Asian states and has intensified nationalist — and that means anti-Russian — sentiments.

Iran's desire to form a political bloc of Central Asian states, with it playing the dominant role, is quite obvious, just as the objective obstacles to the formation of such a bloc are obvious. The economic orientation toward Russia, which persists despite the fact that the single national economic complex that existed in the USSR has ceased to exist, substantially limits the "appetites" of the states which are trying politically, economically, and ideologically to penetrate Central Asia and the Transcaucasus and to get a foothold there. Here the playing of the "Islamic card," to which other Muslim states besides Iran are resorting, works far from always. It should be borne in mind that the United States and certain West European states have also "got their eyes on" Central Asia and the Transcaucasus and, fearing the uncontrollable growth of Islamic fundamentalism, will doubtless hinder the spread of the "Islamic wave" from Iran to this region and support an expansion of influence there of such Islamic states (Turkey, for example) which are closely linked with the West in the political, military, and economic spheres.

Yet there is every reason to believe that the conflicts between Russia and the Islamic world are entirely superable and that close cooperation between them in the political, economic, and military spheres is entirely realistic and possible. Both sides must "do their bit" here. Russia could be initiate the lifting of UN sanctions against Iraq and Libya and make the necessary efforts

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to restore cooperation with the Islamic world in the economic and military spheres. The Islamic world must understand that actions aimed at undermining Russia's positions and violating its national interests in Central Asia, the Transcaucasus, and Chechnya will not be left without the appropriate response that such actions are actually beneficial to those external forces which have long been the enemies of both Russia and the Islamic world.

Everybody realizes that B. Yeltsin's reelection for a second term carries the risk of the further "dissolution" of Russia's foreign policy course in U.S. foreign policy acts and its "gearing" toward the actions of the newly emerged "partners for peace," which will inevitably broaden and deepen the scope for conflicts between Russia and the Islamic world. Such a development of events is not in our state's interests and is clearly also disadvantageous to the Islamic world.

Back at the beginning of the century Nikolay Berdyayev validly observed: "Unless Russia can inspire love toward itself it will lose the basis of its great position in the world." These words are extremely topical at the present time. It is crystal clear that Russia will be able to regain the previous respect of and its previous standing in the world community, including the Islamic world, only through an autonomous foreign policy and consistent efforts to extricate Russian society from the crisis in which it finds itself.

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Political Issues

Russia: Russian Television Shows Yeltsin Meeting Officials

LD2207141096 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 22 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Boris Yeltsin held a number of meetings today. One of them was with Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the consultative council under the president. INTERFAX reports that the meeting discussed the main areas of the council's work. [video shows still photographs of Yeltsin and Rybkin]

The head of state met Ivan Tumanov, chairman of the Russian Constitutional Court the same day. [passage omitted] [Video shows Yeltsin standing, wearing a suit and tie, smiling broadly. He shakes hands with Tumanov in a small reception room. Video then shows Yeltsin sitting down and holding a book resting on coffee table in front of him with both hands.]

Russia: Yeltsin: Government Reshuffling Will Not Be 'Drastic'

LD2307101696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1001 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 23 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin discussed changes in the government with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Barvikha, the Moscow region, today.

"There will be changes in the new government, but they will not be drastic. This goes for the government composition and structure," the president told correspondents after the meeting.

Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin discussed "all aspects of the future government including the structure of the Cabinet, ministries, departments and federal services, and future members of the government."

As for structural changes, the number of federal power institutions will be cut, said the president.

Yeltsin so far refused to name candidates to the new government. He said this could be done only after the Duma approves nomination of the new premier following Yeltsin's inauguration.

Yeltsin said there will be no deputy prime minister in charge of defense industries. "This issue will be supervised by the first deputy prime minister in charge of all industries," he said in response to an Interfax question.

Russia: Yeltsin Proposes Duma Stop Banning Fascist Propaganda Bill

LD2207152496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1354 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 22 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has proposed that the State Duma, the Russian parliament's lower chamber, end its work regarding the draft law "On banning fascist propaganda in Russia," the Russian presidential press service told Interfax on Monday.

Yeltsin said in a report on the bill sent to the State Duma that the definition of fascism given by the draft law "appears rather unclear," the press service said.

First, this makes it difficult to implement the bill. Second, the bill's adoption might result in "unjustified encroachment on civic rights and freedoms," Yeltsin said.

Fascism is only one example of a display of extremism, while it is necessary to fight against any display of extremism regardless of what ideology is used to cover them, Yeltsin said.

Furthermore, the draft law has numerous drawbacks regarding its content, as well as technical-juridical and editing faults, Yeltsin said.

The president said he considered it reasonable to end the work concerning the draft law and proposed that the State Duma discuss the creation of legal methods to combat any display of extremism.

"A serious and comprehensive analysis of existing legislation and juridical practice" will be required for that, Yeltsin said, according to his press service.

Russia: Yeltsin Must 'Pay' for Miners', Metal Workers' Votes

MM2207160196 Moscow TRUD in Russian 20 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Loktev: "You Cannot Put a Pipe Into a Wallet"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tomorrow the mining and metallurgical workers will celebrate the 40th anniversary of their professional holiday. True, there will hardly be any large festivities. The crisis, which has affected nearly 2 million workers in the industry, is not conducive to a festive mood.

The production output in the ferrous metallurgy sector continues to decline. In the first quarter, as compared with the same period of the last year, the production of cast iron, steel, coke, and iron ore fell by 7.1, 5.7, 7.9, and 5 percent, respectively.

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The situation in the nonferrous industry sector is only slightly better, whereas the gold miners "have one foot in the grave."

Recently the Central Board of the Russian Mining and Metallurgy Trade Union has insistently requested that President B. Yeltsin finally solve the problem of guaranteed receipt of wages earned by workers. The situation with the payment of wages in this sector is simply disastrous. Over the March-June period alone, wage arrears in the ferrous metallurgy sector grew from 460 to 803 billion rubles, while arrears in the nonferrous sector rose from 993 to as high as 1,492 billion rubles.

In many regions, delays in wage payments varied from 3 to 6 months, or even over 7 months in some localities.

Because of workers' hard financial situation, administrations at some mining and metallurgical sector enterprises is giving out two or three types of food as a part of their wage. Workers and family members are being put on a list and given [free] meals in factory canteens. These humiliating measures, however, do nothing to solve the problem. Paying wages in kind — for instance, in the form of pipes, as at the "Svobodnyy Sokol" plant in Lipetsk — does not help either....

The reasons for the delays in payment vary but, so the appeal says, the main ones among them are: strategic miscalculations as to the ways in which economic reforms should be conducted; underestimation of the role of a commodity producer; and the stifling pressure brought to bear by the taxation practices. As a result, enterprises have been left without working capital which, in turn, has led to the nonpayment crisis in the Russian economy.

In the presidential election, in 22 of the 34 regions linked, in one way or another, with the mining and metallurgical sector people voted for B. Yeltsin. It is now time, however, to pay for that credit of trust with some action. Hopefully this really will be forthcoming. Then the patience of the miners, metallurgy workers, and others who, having "tightened their belts," are working hard for the revival of a mighty and prosperous Russia will be properly rewarded.

Russia: Shumeyko Backs Yeltsin's 'National Idea'

MM2207125696 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 22 Jul 96 p 1

[Interview with Vladimir Shumeyko by Anna Kozyreva; date and place not given: "Russia Cannot Be Understood With the Mind. At the Same Time, It Has Always Had Its Own National Idea. This Is the Belief of Vladimir Shumeyko"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Kozyreva] Vladimir Filippovich! The president has expressed his wish for the elaboration of a national idea to unite all Russian citizens. What then is to become of the principle enshrined in the Constitution that ideological diversity is recognized in Russia?

[Shumeyko] Article 13 of the Russian Federation Constitution states directly, and I quote: "No ideology can be established as a state or compulsory ideology." The reason for this article is obvious. It was written at a time when memories of the old Constitution with the leading and guiding role of the party and the domination of Marxist-Leninist ideology were very fresh.

[Kozyreva] So now the Constitution must be changed and amended?

[Shumeyko] Why? Right now we are talking about an idea that unites the nation. Tell me, what unites countries like the United States, Germany, and Britain? In my view, Americans, if you like, preach great-power chauvinism. They believe their country to be the greatest in the world, and they disseminate this idea throughout the world. In economics it expresses itself in financial expansion, the conquest of new markets, and dollarization.

[Kozyreva] We have rejected Marxism-Leninism, but what can we offer Russians today?

[Shumeyko] What can we offer now instead of ideology? Television offers you a million if you can guess a tune or the right number. Honest work enjoys no prestige. Whereas under Soviet power wages formed the basis of the budget (98 percent of all income), today wages account for only 63 percent of the population's income. And where does the rest of its income come from? In this situation the country needs a unifying idea. Because, as Bulgakov's hero Preobrazhenskiy said, "people's destruction lies in their own heads."

[Kozyreva] Can Russians be united by purely market ideas?

[Shumeyko] I believe that neither the market nor democracy are values in themselves. Yes, the market, but in the name of what? Formerly it was said: "Everything for people's good." A fine slogan. And it was not to reject this slogan that we smashed the soviet system. This idea has united people throughout our history. Unfortunately, the work "patriotism" has become hackneyed lately, but it was always sacred for Russians. Let us call it to mind once again!

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Russia: Chubays To Lead Yeltsin Inauguration Team

LD2307105796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1044 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 23 (Itar-Tass) — The newly- appointed Kremlin chief of staff Anatoliy Chubays has his first job cut out for him — he will head the team which is preparing and will conduct Yeltsin's inauguration as sovereign Russia's President, informed sources in the Kremlin told Itar-Tass today.

Russia: Chubays Seen as Complete Ignoramus in Past Jobs

MM2207133896 Moscow PRAVDA-5 in Russian 19-26 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed article from "Editor's Column": "Khlestakov's Journey Through the Peaks of Power"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The popular analysts who wander from one TV studio to another were only recently arguing thoughtfully that a triangle of power had emerged from the presidential elections, consisting of Boris Yeltsin, Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Aleksandr Lebed. Future political intrigues, they assured us, would develop within these clearly delineated boundaries. Now they tell us that a quadrangle has emerged, in which the fourth angle is occupied, unexpectedly for the majority of forecasters, by Anatoliy Chubays, who has been appointed head of the Presidential Staff and simultaneously Yeltsin's senior aide.

What could have happened in the space of the two-and-a-bit weeks that have passed since Yeltsin's statement, which was interpreted as meaning that there was no way that Chubays would form part of his team? Finally, who influenced the plans of Mr. Voucher [Chubays' nickname deriving from his association with the iussue of privatization vouchers when he headed State Committee for Management of State Property] himself, who publicly announced his rejection of any posts in the power structures? Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], who has never been in the habit of mincing his words, claims that Chubays was installed in his new posts by U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, who "runs" our country. Level-headed political scientists resort to a milder, more subtle formula: This could not have happened without "very serious outside pressure." Of course, this extremely unpleasant topic for the Kremlin will evidently soon be submerged in the TV and radio airwaves, which will broadcast the heartfelt speeches of the commentators on the wise strategy of Yeltsin, who always creates an effective system of counterbalances in his entourage, so that not one of the "top people" near him obtains a superior influence on the performance of current, fateful tasks.

The Russian public has already heard quite enough about Yeltsin's respect for Byzantine traditions. The biased mass media are once again trotting out for its benefit the slogan about that "great functionary" Chubays. They are trying to instill into the citizens of this country, whose huge national assets were sold off for peanuts by Russia's voucherizer in chief, the idea that he is a model statesman, who has no equal in the art of administration.

No, no, spare us, gentlemen, please! Both in the post of chairman of the State Committee for the Management of State Property and as first vice premier responsible for financial and economic issues in the Russian Government Anatoliy Borisovich [Chubays], even if his activity is assessed from the macroeconomic standpoint, showed himself to be a complete ignoramus. The "brilliant reformer" failed spectacularly even in his favorite sphere — privatization: The profits from this process proved to be several times lower than the sums forecast, which resulted in huge holes in the budget that have not been plugged to this day. Failure in the implementation of the investment programs, a permanent banking crisis, colossal state debts in the form of unpaid wages — that is what the "great functionary" Chubays left poor Russia on leaving the government. The only thing at which the "reform general" excelled was in self-advertisement. Here he displayed the genius of a true Khlestakov [Gogol's fraudulent "government inspector"]. It is a pity that a [real] government inspector was not found for Chubays. It remains to hope for a town governor who will at long last see through this fake from St. Petersburg. Let us await the dumb scene [when the real government inspector appears in Gogol's eponymous play, all the characters are struck dumb and frozen to the spot; after which the curtain descends]. Then it will be possible to bring the curtain down.

Russia: Chernomyrdin Holds Separate Meetings With Lebed, Seleznev

LD2207173096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1537 GMT 22 Jul 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Anna Kovaleva, Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Boris Yunanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin had a working meeting with Russian Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed today, the prime minister's spokesman Viktor Konnov has reported. He said attention focused on social and eco-

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nomic matters, national security problems and a settlement in Chechnya. Chernomyrdin-Lebed meetings have become "traditional," the source said, adding that the prime minister plans to meet with Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev this afternoon.

Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Monday held a working meeting with State Duma speaker Gennadiy Seleznev (the Communist Party faction), Chernomyrdin's press secretary, Viktor Konnov, told Interfax.

The officials discussed interaction between the government and State Duma in the sphere of law-making and more efficient work over bills, primarily in the field of the economy, in order to speed up their passage through parliament, sources close to the prime minister said. The meeting lasted about an hour.

They also spoke of "balancing relations between State Duma deputies and the government," the sources said.

The meeting between Chernomyrdin and Seleznev, the second during the last four days, was held in the framework of consultations between Chernomyrdin and parliamentary leaders, the sources said.

Earlier Chernomyrdin met with leader of the Yabloko movement Grigoriy Yavlinskiy and members of the Russian Regions deputies group.

Russia: Chernomyrdin, Lebed Confer on Socioeconomic Issues

MM2307090796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jul 96 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report: "Range of Questions Remains the Same...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday Russian Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin held his latest working meeting with Security Council Secretary Aleksandr Lebed, the president's national security adviser. Henceforth meetings between the prime minister and Security Council secretary will become regular.

During the meeting, which lasted over an hour, Chernomyrdin and Lebed discussed a wide range of socioeconomic questions affecting national security interests. They included the situation in the Chechen Republic and the problems associated with providing financial and economic support for Armed Forces reform. The subject of combating crime and corruption was also discussed.

Russia: Defense Minister Says Serious Military Reform Needed

LD2207131096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1243 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 22 (Interfax) — Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov emphasized the need for serious military reform during a session in the Defense Ministry on Monday, the ministry's information department told Interfax.

Rodionov informed the ministry's leadership of the tasks set by Russian President Boris Yeltsin for the Defense Ministry.

During the session, Rodionov emphasized the need to "overcome rivalry between agencies within the power structures in a resolute fashion." He also mapped out measures to ensure the best technical supply of the armed forces and man the armed forces "in the most important area of their activities," the same source said.

Those at the session focused on raising the Russian Army's authority in the eyes of the people, maintaining good morale among military units and handling social problems facing servicemen and their families.

Corruption and any abuses of office among the Defense Ministry's leadership will be resolutely combatted, those at the session stressed.

Those at the session said that in terms of personnel policy, priority would be given to energetic officers and generals with an unstained reputation, those who really bear the burden of military service, a well-informed source in the Defense Ministry told Interfax.

During the session, Rodionov gave specific instructions on increasing the combat readiness of troops. He also announced measures to strengthen discipline and law and order in the armed forces.

Russia: Rodionov Pledges Reform on Combating Corruption

MM2207190796 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 23 Jul 96 p 1

[Russian Federation Defense Ministry Information Directorate report: "Working Conference at Russian Federation Defense Ministry"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a working conference 22 July Russian Defense Minister Colonel General Igor Rodionov informed Russian Federation Defense Ministry leading personnel of the tasks set the military department by Russian President Boris Yeltsin. The need to carry out in-depth military reform and to resolutely overcome departmentalism and local favoritism in the

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power structures' activity was stressed. Ways of ensuring that units and combined units in the Armed Forces' most important areas of activity enjoy the maximum level of equipment provision and manpower acquisition were set out.

Special attention was paid to enhancing the Russian Army's authority in the eyes of the people and the world community, to maintaining a healthy moral climate in military collectives, and to questions of the social protection of servicemen and their families. It was stressed that any manifestations of corruption and abuse of official position among Armed Forces leadership personnel will be resolutely combated. Priority in cadre policy is given to enterprising officers and generals who can think in an independent and creative way and have an irreproachable reputation, to those who really bear the burden and hardships of military service and who are devoted to serving the fatherland.

During the conference the Russian defense minister issued specific instructions on enhancing combat readiness and strengthening discipline and law and order among the troops.

Russia: 'Honest' Rodionov's Apointment as Minister Welcomed

MM2307101496 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 23 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Mikhail Aratov under the "Fact and Commentary" rubric: "Our Man, From the Countryside"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Until it was renamed the Soviet Army, the Red Army was known as the Workers and Peasants Army. Not only because it was manned predominantly by residents of the countryside and outlying suburbs — under the czar-father recruits were also provided by villages and workers districts. But also because the revolution paved the way to higher office, including Army ranks, for ordinary people, whereas the former officers corps was made up of people with "white bones and blue blood."

All this came suddenly to mind when I heard the news of the appointment of Russia's new minister of defense. He is our man, from the countryside. Colonel General Igor Nikolayevich Rodionov was born in the village of Kurakino in Penza Oblast's Serdobskiy Rayon. He graduated from the Orel Tank School, and advanced from platoon commander to division commander. He commanded the 40th Army in Afghanistan and worked as chief military adviser in Damascus. He also graduated from the Military Academy of Armored and Tank Troops with gold medal and from the Military Academy of the General Staff with distinction.

He is certainly not the first "countryside" minister of defense. Georgiy Konstantinovich Zhukov was born in Moscow Guberniya's village of Strelkovka. Aleksandr Mikhaylovich Vasilevskiy came from Kostroma Oblast's village of Golchikha, and Andrey Antonovich Grechko from Rostov Oblast's village of Golodayevka. Dmitriy Timofeyevich Yazov's surname indicates his place of birth — Omsk Oblast's village of Yazovka. And Yevgeniy Ivanovich Shaposhnikov came from Rostov Oblast's settlement of Bolshoy Log. Seven out of the 11 postwar ministers of defense came from the countryside. Let me also mention the seventh — Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev. He was born in Tula Oblast's village of Rvy.

But let us turn back to Igor Rodionov. Right-wingers and left-wingers alike admit that he is a "high-class professional," "one of the most authoritative troop leaders in our Army," and a "profoundly decent person." But whereas figures from the people's patriotic opposition have accepted his appointment calmly — this is what a minister of defense should be like — the democrats are clearly agog. They quickly discovered a "fact which tarnishes his reputation" — the 9 April 1989 events in Tbilisi, when Rodionov was commander of the Transcaucasus Military District and was assigned responsibility for dispersing a demonstration which resulted in casualties. They are hinting that at that time Rodionov was "ideological close to the future members of the State Committee for the State of Emergency." They recall the words spoken a long time ago by Anatoliy Sobchak that "Rodionov is first and foremost a Communist" and that at the crucial moment "allegiance to the Communist Party outweighed all moral and professional considerations."

But I think that something else is at issue here. An honest person has arrived at the Ministry of Defense, a person untainted by Chechnya's blood, unassociated with nepotism, and capable of imposing order, eradicating corruption, and actually implementing the Russian Army's reform. This is evidently what they fear.

Russia: Pluralism Seen as Vital to Russia's Revival

MM2207110996 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 19 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Academician Gennadiy Osipov, director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Sociopolitical Research Center: "Ideas for Russia" — first six paragraphs are editorial introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Expressing the interests of the millions of Russian voters who voted for the continuation of the reforms, President Boris Yeltsin voiced the thoughts of everyone who cherishes the

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country's future by asking what national idea should unite us.

It is said that after World War II Austrians, for example, were united by beer, Japanese by the idea of borrowing and accumulating the most advanced technology in all spheres, Germans by the burning desire to unite East and West Germany....

So what could turn the Russian people into a mighty nation? Of course, anything but making one single idea absolute. We have already been through that in communist times. We will all have to rack our brains mightily before people from the Urals and Siberia, from the Far East and the Central Chernozem, fiery southerners and reserved northerners, inhabitants of the megalopolises and the remote provinces will trust the authorities.

Let us think! Let us work! Let us search! Let us listen to one another attentively!

Let us help ourselves and the president!

In this connection ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI is opening a new rubric — "Ideas for Russia."

Ideas cultivated in the test tube will hardly take root in natural soil. It is impossible to invent a national ideology, but it possible to formulate one, if the ideas that are floating in the Russian ether today and the symbols that enjoy public support can be caught and understood. Our research records as the most popular and significant ideas in recent years patriotism, a strong state [derzhavnost], spiritual revival, and stability. Virtually all respondents speak of the need to secure prosperity for Russian citizens. Taken together, all this provides an impetus for engendering an all-Russia ideology.

I suggest that this ideology could be based on three symbols that are capable of uniting all parties and movements. These symbols/concepts are: spirituality, people's power, and a strong state.

Spirituality express above all the moral, just principles of public life, freedom of thought, the moral norms for the behavior of the individual in society, and the primacy of good over evil. It cannot be reduced to faith in God or the monarch. It is respect for different points of view, opinions, and religious creeds. Spiritual revival is the method of harmonizing Russian society by means of enhancing the best spiritual values that are most suitable for our times and have their roots in the people.

People's power requires the state to serve the people and rules out its use as some kind of state instrument or driving belt to cater for the interests of the state elite or as an object of experimentation. It is essential to transform the state from an organ standing above the people into the organ of the people's democratic self-organization; and this is impossible without political pluralism, a multiparty system, and increased independence from the structures of power for society's forms of movement, including those that place the most important state services under public control.

No less important for a national ideology is the nowadays very fashionable concept of a strong state. Historically, Russia was formed as a huge Eurasian geopolitical area. Despite the drama of history the idea of a strong state, the desire to see Russia become a strong and mighty country, remains unextinguished in the hearts of millions of our fellow citizens. The Russian people, who are the ethnic nucleus of the Fatherland, and the dozens of non-Russian peoples who have lived together for centuries, could be joined and united by the idea of a strong statehood for Russia established in the geopolitical background of the Eurasian area.

We should not be frightened by the fact that Russia has its own path of transition to a postindustrial society, which in the political sphere dictates a transition from the "vertical," partyocratic, representative democracy of industrial civilization to a vertical-horizontal, total democracy, and in the economic sphere transition from the market-consumer model to the model of social and economic self-sufficiency. As for the new ideology, by putting an end to the ethics of strong-arm confrontation it should ensure the peaceful coexistence and development of humanitarian cultures, traditions, and religions.

We offer these ideas of ours, which are interpreted in the systemic context of the new course of reforms that the institute is currently elaborating, for discussion by the most diverse political forces and public movements, by academia, and by all those who care about Russia's future.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Russia: Official Says $3 Billion Needed To Destroy Chemical Weapons

LD2207154996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1543 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — A Russian lawmaker in charge of defence said Russia will need at least 17 trillion roubles (nearly 3.3 billion dollars) to destroy chemical weapons and it will start a destruction programme only after "material, legislative and other preconditions" for its implementation are in place.

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In an interview with Itar-Tass, General Nikolay Bezborodov, deputy chairman of the State Duma committee for defence, voiced doubt that Russia will be able to destroy its chemical weapons supplies, currently estimated at 40,000 tons, without significant aid from the West.

"I think we will not manage without serious foreign aid," Bezborodov said.

The lawmaker did not rule out that the lower house will pass a law on chemical weapons destruction before 1997, the more so that its first reading has been already adopted. He reminded that President Boris Yeltsin approved the federal programme to the same effect in April 1996.

Tamara Zlotnikova, chairwoman of the Duma committee for ecology, also admitted that Russia will need foreign aid to destruct chemical weapons without harm to environment.

"If the world community is vitally interested in the soonest discharge of Russia's enormous chemical weapons supplies, it must provide our country with significant monetary aid," Zlotnikova said.

She pointed out that any attempts to solve the problem "headlong or in a rush would be premature if not criminal."

Apart from funds, Russia needs a package of laws which would protect its residents from potential risks related to chemical weapons destruction and ensure strict state control over such works, she said.

Russia: Video Report on Launch of New Nuclear Submarine

MM1907125096 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 19 Jul 96

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Video report by Yelena Menshikova, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [080626] [Menshikova over video of slipway, launching ceremony] The Tomsk missile-armed nuclear submarine has been moved out of the main production unit stocks at the State Center for Nuclear Submarine Building in Severodvinsk. This event has coincided with an important anniversary in the history of Russian shipbuilding. The first submarine was launched at the Severodvinsk shipyard 16 years ago, marking the beginning of the series production of nuclear vessels armed with cruise missiles. This laid the groundwork for the organization of a powerful nuclear submarine complex in the Russian Navy. For shipbuilders the completion of work in the stocks is always an important event, and in the present times it is a particulourly joyous occasion.

[Vladimir Chuvakin, chief shipbuilder of the State Nuclear Submarine Building Center, identified by caption] I have always believed in common sense. In my view the Russian Navy cannot exist without submarines. And only we can produce submarines like this one. I hope that common sense will prevail, and that within sensible bounds we will be able to get on with our work, which is what we live for.

[Admiral Oleg Yerofeyev, commander of the Northern Fleet, identified by caption] The great Russian reformer Petr Stolypin once said that the launching of a ship is a national triumph for the state. These words are highly appropriate for today's occasion.

Yelena Menshikova, Yuriy Kiselev reporting for Russian Public Television. [080751] [video shows ceremony prior to launch, brief interview with shipbuilder, Admiral Yerofeyev speaking from a rostrum]

Russia: Payments Problems Delaying Space Projects

MM2207122896 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 21 Jul 96

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report by A. Peslyak, identified by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Text] [101115] [Peslyak over video of Gore- Chernomyrdin meeting, Khrunichev space module production facilities] Last week Viktor Chernomyrdin and Albert Gore approved the timetable for the production and launch of the first components of the new international space station. While everything is fine as regards the cargo and power supply unit — it will be launched in the fall of next year, the Russian contribution, the service module, is six months behind schedule because of enterprises which insist on prepayment.

Because of delays in the payment for the Soyuz launcher order, the Russian-French space trio's launch to the Mir station will be delayed by one month.

Meanwhile Samara launcher builders, having created a joint-stock company together with Aerospatiale and Ariane Espace, are now entering the world commercial satellite launch market with the same product. The objective is to get the Soyuz launcher accepted for the launch, in the longer term, of some 500 low-orbit satellites and thus ensure jobs for Russian engineers and workers, who will be paid with money received from foreign clients.

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[A. Medvedchikov, deputy general director of the Russian Space Agency, identified by caption] It is a question of additional funds, not from the state budget, which our enterprises need so urgently at the moment. [101224] [video shows Gore-Chernomyrdin meeting, Khrunichev production facilities, Soyuz launcher on rail track, space crew, more closeups of launcher and launchpad, Medvedchikov interview]

Federal Assembly

Russia: Seleznev, Chernomyrdin Discuss Government Structure, Laws

LD2207165996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1648 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Gennadiy Yezhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev stressed the need to accelerate the passage of economic draft laws in the lower house of parliament.

During their meeting, which was held in the prime minister's office and last over an hour, Seleznev and Chernomyrdin discussed the make-up and structure of a new government.

Seleznev said the present balance of forces in the Duma makes the confirmation of Chernomyrdin as a new head of government "rather likely."

The prime minister and the speaker described their meetings as "very useful" and agreed to continue their meetings between the house's sessions. The first such meeting was held last week.

Speaking on Russian television's Zerkalo (Mirror) show on Sunday, Seleznev said Chernomyrdin will get enough support in the Duma to be confirmed as a new head of government, as 260-280 deputies are likely to vote for him.

He explained his view by the fact that the government has proclaimed the priority of social policy and is determined to put an end to a situation where "people work, but are not paid."

Seleznev described as "unexpected" the appointment of former privatisation chief ideologist Anatoliy Chubays as the chief of staff of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's administration.

At the same time, he noted that Chubays "will not have any relations with the Duma."

"It is up to the prime minister to come to an agreement with the presidential administration's chief of staff on how they are going to work together, at least Chubays' duties do not provide for his interference in the work of the Cabinet of Ministers, but we have to wait and see," he said.

Seleznev said "the one who will be appointed by the president as prime minister" will tell the deputies, for 15-60 minutes, about his vision of what adjustments need to be made in the reform program "in connection with the promises made by the Russian president during the election campaign."

After about an hour-long questions-and-answers session and speeches by deputy groups and key Duma committees, voting will be held.

The speaker believes that a new prime minister will be nominated immediately after the president's inauguration on August 9 so that the Duma could hold its extraordinary session on August 12.

"I have got the impression that Viktor Chernomyrdin will get enough votes to be confirmed the head of government," he added.

Seleznev said cooperation between the communist faction in the Duma and a new government will depend on what kind of policy it will propose, "on the degree to which it will be socially-oriented and on methods to be used to lift the economy from its knees."

If the spirit of such policy corresponds to the basic principles proclaimed by the Communist Party and the popular patriotic bloc, "then we can talk about some agreement on a coalition government."

Chernomyrdin said the government will submit the 1997 budget to the Duma in September. For his part, Seleznev promised to ensure that it is considered without delay.

Russia: NDR Faction Leader on Duma Obstruction of Essential Laws

MM2207125796 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jul 96 Weekend Edition p 5

[Report by Nataliya Bachurina: "There Is a Red Hue to the Gaps in Legislation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our information: As of 1 July this year, over 50 draft laws submitted by the Russian Federation Government in the first half of 1996 (in addition to draft laws on questions of ratifying international treaties and agreements) and approximately 30 draft laws submitted to the State Duma of the previous convocation in 1994-1995 are at various stages of consideration in the State Duma.

Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin has sent the State Duma a letter reminding it that many government and presidential draft laws of great socioeconomic

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importance have not yet been examined. The prime minister's message was not even read out in the Duma Council, which shapes the agenda. Sergey Belyayev, leader of the NDR [Russia Is Our Home] Duma faction, made this comment on the situation:

"We reckoned that after the presidential election the State Duma and, in particular, its Legislation Committee headed by A. Lukyanov would take a more considered stand on the adoption of laws geared to continuing the market reforms. Laws which have been held up by the Duma's left-wing majority. Contrary to common sense, they are being torpedoed even now that the country is moving into a different stage in reforming the economy and the social sphere and is in dire need of the appropriate legislative base. It is a question, above all, of a market-concept Land Code, laws on free economic zones, mortgages, privatization, and bankruptcy, tax legislation, and many others that are impatiently awaited in the provinces.

"Take, for example, the draft law on mortgages or, virtually, on the mortgaging of real estate. Time and again this draft has been deferred on various pretexts: 'We are poor,' they say, 'we have nothing to mortgage, and we will not let anyone else mortgage land.' Such 'arguments' smack of the leftism of antimarket ideologues a mile off.

"Another example: A draft law on a list of mineral deposits is proposed in continuation of the law on agreements on the division of output. Again there is talk of squandering Russia's minerals, and they virtually refuse even to discuss this question, deliberately not including it on the agenda. And yet the purpose of a plenary session is to examine a proposal and to investigate what criteria and approaches to it are needed and what objections there are. Evidently realizing that they have no serious arguments, our opponents are blocking the examination of such draft laws as early as the agenda stage.

"An all-Russia seminar on crisis management was held Tuesday, at which a number of territories' representatives bluntly declared that, if the law on the list of mineral deposits is not adopted in the very near future within the framework of the law on agreements on the division of output, we risk being left without investments and totally undermining Russia's geological base, for whose maintenance and renewal there is an extreme shortage of state funds. Unfortunately, our comrades on the Duma's left wing continue to moan about Russia's being turned into a raw materials appendage of the West without proposing anything specific. Having forgotten that some 10 years ago, not without their tacit indulgence or even direct participation and hiding behind state policy, whole rivers of oil, gas, and natural riches were being pumped from the country out of control and at ridiculously low prices....

"The fact that the government chairman has put to parliament a correct demand for the most topical draft laws to be examined urgently is also dictated by Boris Yeltsin's election platform aimed at really advancing the course of reforms in the direction of the well-being of all Russians. Jointly with the government, the NDR faction is drawing up a list of laws and an algorithm of the sequence for adopting them as quickly as possible.

"In the present situation, when the Duma is in holiday mood, it is hard to imagine that it will adopt the Tax Code in the very near future. But, given the will, some things can be done even here. The NDR faction intends to propose several draft laws which could at least form the basis of adopting the budget for 1997."

Russia: Duma Deputies Form Body on Caucasus, Southern Russia

MK2007130596 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Yekaterina Sytaya: "Southern Deputies Unite"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The turn of events in Chechnya, and all over the North Caucasus for that matter, got Muscovites especially worried when two trolley buses were bombed in downtown Moscow within 24 hours. Next came Yuriy Luzhkov's statement on possible deportation from Moscow of the entire Chechen diaspora, as well as threats from the law enforcement agencies against people from the Caucasus living in Moscow and other Russian cities. Even before finding those responsible for the terrorist acts, they were seen as having a "Chechen trace," which affected the operation of law enforcement agencies with regard to Moscow's Caucasus nationals. So far neither the Ministry for Nationalities Affairs nor the Duma committees for federation affairs, regional policy, and nationalities affairs have reacted to this even though the Russian Federation State Duma has 13 percent of deputies elected in Caucasus districts.

It was as late as 18 July, during a conference on coordination of the parliament's activity in solving the questions of the Caucasus and Russia's south, that State Duma Deputy Chairman Mikhail Gutseriyev urged his fellow countrymen [those who hail from the Caucasus] to rise above party and faction differences "in the name of normalizing the situation in the native region." "Caucasus" deputies of the NDR [Russia Is Our Home], LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia], CPRF [Communist Party of the Russian Federation],

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and Yabloko factions put forward at this conference four proposals which they intend to put before the government and the Russian Federation prosecutor's office, as well as the leadership of Moscow.

First, in the view of the deputies, the Ministry for the Affairs of Nationalities and Federative Relations is supposed to have special status within the structure of the bodies of power. To implement the governmental nationalities policy and appropriate federal programs, the Russian Federation Government is supposed to provide for the inclusion of a special expenditure item in next year's budget. According to Mr. Gutseriyev's information, while to maintain the military the state spends 10 trillion rubles, to "finance conflicts" it spends hundreds of trillions. "Should there be another two or three conflicts on the territory of Russia, the budget would give way, the Russian statehood would simply cease to exist," the State Duma deputy chairman stated. Therefore, the Duma is supposed to approve an [expense] item with regard to this ministry (in the same way as with regard to the Defense Ministry) to provide funds for refugees and persons who have suffered as a result of conflicts. The head of the ministry is supposed to hold the position of deputy prime minister of Russia.

Second, the deputies think it necessary to turn to the president and the Russian Federation Government with a proposal to create, for the duration of at least five years, a state committee for the affairs of Russia's south and the Caucasus (analogous to the State Committee for the North). They believe that the "explosive situation, capable of destroying the country any moment, calls for a clear and deeply analyzed solution of the problems in this region." The committee is supposed to develop a concept of state policy in the region, which is the home to about 124 peoples of different faiths and mentalities.

Third, it was proposed to give a thought to the creation of an all-Caucasus assembly, which could, at the first stage, unite and coordinate activities of the parliaments and governments of republics, krays, and oblasts of the Caucasus and Russia's south. It is supposed to include in the assembly deputies of the Krasnodar and the Rostov oblast dumas. In the opinion of Mr. Gutseriyev, the currently working Confederation of the Peoples of the Caucasus does not fulfill its functions with regard to solving vital problems facing the peoples of the Caucasus.

Fourth, the deputies conference proposed the creation of a consultative council of Russian Federation State Duma deputies on the problems of the Caucasus and Russia's south, where parliamentarians would discuss questions of the region's further development.

It was also decided that meetings of 65 "Caucasus" deputies of the Russian State Duma will henceforth be held every month. The next conference will be held approximately on 9 August.

Regional Affairs

Russia: Tatar President: Russia Must Clarify Economic Priorities

LD2007110696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 20 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazan, July 20 (Interfax) — The new Russian Government will have to map out economic priorities in a clear fashion, Mintimer Shaymiyev, president of the internal Russian republic of Tatarstan, told Interfax in an interview.

Russia needs to develop the competitive sectors of the economy that "we have," Shaymiyev said, adding that the country in particular needed to focus on the development of the aerospace industry.

"We have no right just to lose our positions in the international market because we have so serious achievements regarding this industry," he said.

At present, the government should concentrate on the situation concerning the aerospace industry because "everything cannot be taken out of the crisis at once," Shaymiyev said.

"We have to decide finally what we will produce and what can wait," the Tatar president said.

Russia also needs a "real military doctrine," he said, adding that "so much is being said about the doctrine, but we still don't have it."

Hundreds of thousands of high-skilled specialists in companies belonging to the military-industrial complex are primarily interested in the adoption and implementation of the military doctrine, he said.

"The most unpleasant moment regarding relations between the Russian federal authorities and the regions" is that the federal government fails to control the implementation of its own decisions, Shaymiyev said. "For instance, Russian President Boris Yeltsin has issued a decree on some matter, and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed a corresponding decision. But the federal authorities are doing nothing to implement the decisions," he said.

However, Tatarstan "meets all of its obligations," Shaymiyev said.

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Russia: Court Finds Evidence of 'Rigged' Election in Tatarstan

LD2307102196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0820 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 23 (Interfax) — Russia's Supreme Court has handed to the Prosecutor General's Office evidence of "rigged results of the first round of presidential elections in Tatarstan," the court reported yesterday.

By the court's decision, the Prosecutor General's Office is to investigate the claim and decide whether it is sufficient for starting a criminal case in accordance with article 133 of the Russian Penal Code, envisaging punishment for ballot papers' forgery or a fraudulent vote count.

Inquiry into the first round of presidential balloting in Tatarstan was requested by Vadim Solovyov, a campaigner of Communist candidate Gennadiy Zyuganov, following charges of gross election fraud in five districts of Tatarstan's capital Kazan.

According to Solovyov's evidence, based on the check of the voting records made available by local electoral commissions to the Central Electoral body and verified by observers, the Kazan constituencies registered 45,540 redundant votes in Yeltsin's favor.

Solovyov has lodged a similar complaint with the Supreme Court, claiming election fraud in the second round of elections in Mordovia. The court is to examine this claim on Thursday.

The Russian Supreme Court is the final court of appeal for all civil and criminal cases not involving interpretation of the Russian Constitution.

Russia: Miners' Strike Aggravating Maritime Kray Energy Crisis

MM2307103096 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Jul 96 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Pay What Has Been Earned, Otherwise We Will Freeze During the Winter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] One more mine — "Nagornaya" — has joined the miners' strike in Maritime Kray's city of Partizansk. Miners at four mines are on strike, while miners at only two sections of the "Avangard" Enterprise reported for work Monday [22 July].

According to the "Primorskugol" Joint-Stock Company's central control office, more than 3,000 persons are taking part in the indefinite strike. The strikers' demands are strictly economic: Payment of wages earned over the last five months. Due to chronic nonpayment by consumers, the enterprise has been unable to settle with its workers, and at present the wages debt owed to Maritime Kray miners is in excess of 100 billion rubles.

The shutdown of the mines is especially tragic against the background of the ongoing energy crisis in Maritime Kray. The kray's power stations, which should have stockpiled 1 million tonnes of coal according to plan, have only 120,000 tonnes in their stores. All the coal arriving from other regions is going straight from the railroad cars into the burners, making it impossible to put anything aside for the approaching heating season. According to Maritime Kray energy industry spokesmen, the miners' strike which has been going on for a week now will aggravate even further the situation in the kray's fuel and energy complex and will create the most serious conditions for the kray in the coming winter.

Russia: OSCE Official Expresses Will To Cooperate With Zavgayev

LD2207145696 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 22 Jul 96

[Video report by Ramzan Khadzhiyev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just received the following report from our correspondent in Chechnya:

[Ramzan Khadzhiyev] According to the joint press center, the situation in the Chechen Republic remains complicated. Shatoysky [Shatoy] District and adjacent highland districts continue to be the most tense. There is an endless stream of refugees from there. Fearing for their lives and the safety of their loved ones, people are leaving their homes. A large concentration of migrants from highland villages is already apparent in Groznyy.

In the Chechen capital itself three shooting incidents were registered during the last 24 hours. There is no word of any losses. The crime situation has not changed for the better either. Not one of nine serious crimes has been cleared up. However, the militia statistics show that theft of private and publicly owned vehicles has decreased sharply. Evidently, the demand for offroad vehicles has already dropped.

It is worth singling out two political events that have occurred in the Chechen capital, a statement issued by Russia's permanent mission in Chechnya and the visit which Tim Guldimann, the leader of the OSCE mission in Groznyy, is paying on Doku Zavgayev, the head of the Chechen Republic. The mission's statement, which was read out by Akmal Saidov, the Russian Government's deputy plenipotentiary representative in

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Groznyy, says it is essential to resume talks immediately and to return to the Moscow agreements. Saidov considers that other branches of power in Russia should share some of Yeltsin's burden of responsibility for a peaceful settlement in Chechnya.

Before his meeting with the head of the Chechen Republic, Tim Guldimann told our program that, in view of the complicated relationship between Zavgayev and himself, he intended to express readiness to cooperate closely with the government of the Chechen Republic.

Russia: OSCE Official, Zavgayev Discuss Chechen Conflict

LD2207144696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1318 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Alvi Karimov and Kometa Tepsayeva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — The conflict in Chechnya may develop into a guerrilla war, Tim Guldimann, the head of the mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Chechnya, said after his meeting with Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev on Monday.

Violations of the peace agreements reached in Moscow and Nazran have led to large-scale fighting, Guldimann said.

At the same time, he did not say who is responsible for breaching the agreements between Moscow and Chechen rebels.

Earlier, the pro-Moscow Chechen government has repeatedly criticised Guldimann for his one-sides approach towards the conflict.

Commenting on this criticism, Guldimann noted that he coordinates his moves with Moscow and acts in close contact with Sergey Stepashin, the secretary of Russia's commission for the settlement of the conflict in Chechnya.

Guldimann said a meeting between Colonel-General Anatoliy Kvashnin, the commander of the North Caucasus military district, and Chechen military leader Aslan Maskhadov is practically prepared, adding that he had had lengthy discussions with Kvashnin and representatives of Chechen rebels over the weekend.

On Tuesday, Guldimann will fly to Moscow at the invitation of the Russian Justice Ministry to inform the Russian leadership about the situation in Chechnya.

Russia: Zavgayev To Abolish Post of Government Special Envoy

LD2207145496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1327 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Nikolay Zagnoyko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev said he will abolish the post of the Russian government's special envoy to Chechnya.

His functions will be now performed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin's envoy to the republic.

Zavgayev said Yeltsin has approved the move.

The Chechen leader expressed the hope that the decision will facilitate efforts to strengthen statehood and constitution order in the republic.

The Russian government's envoy to Chechnya is Nikolay Fedosov. First Vice-Prime Minister Oleg Lobov is the president's envoy to Chechnya.

Russia: Chechnya: Zavgayev Orders Shake-Up in Interior Ministry

LD2307055296 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0440 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have on the line with the latest news Pavel Guskov, our indefatigable own correspondent in northern Caucasus. Over to you.

[Guskov] Late last night [22 July] Doku Zavgayev, head of the Chechen Republic, signed a decree that provides for moving out of the establishment all the staff of Chechnya's Ministry of Internal Affairs. Commenting on the document, press secretary Ruslan Martagov said it is aimed at assessing the professional and moral qualities of those staff who will later be re-employed. Ruslan Martagov also added that similar documents are planned with regard to all state employees in the Chechen Republic. [passage omitted noting that a trial of three Chechens accused of aiding and abetting hostage-takers opens in Stavropol on 23 July; one of the three was employed by the Chechen Ministry of Internal Affairs]

Russia: Chechen Minister Details Russian Use of Chemical Weapons

LD2207190596 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Chechnya the main events are still unfolding in Shatoyskiy District. The federal forces have been carrying out a special operation aimed at eliminating a major military base of the opposition

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for several days. Today due to bad weather conditions — rain and thick fog — large-scale hostilities have been suspended, a representative of the command told INTERFAX.

For his part, Movladiy Udugov, the press minister in the Chechen opposition government, told our radio station that the federal forces were making active use of aviation and artillery today and even used chemical weapons.

[Begin Udugov recording] This afternoon three volunteer fighters died from poisoning. Today the Russian forces used artillery shells filled with chemicals. After the shells exploded, some unidentified substance came over the trenches occupied by the Chechen volunteer fighters, literally in lumps. Three fighters died in agony and convulsions in front of a dozen other fighters within 15-20 minutes. The corpses have been taken to Itum-Kale, near which the medical subunit — the medical base — of the fighters is situated. An attempt will be made there to document this case somehow so that at a later date an accusation can be brought against the Russian side. [end recording]

[Announcer] Movladiy Udugov has confirmed that this week, in accordance with Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev's order, the exchange of POW's will be resumed; it was suspended on 9 July due to a sharp exacerbation of the situation in Chechnya.

Russia: General Denies Chemical Weapons in Chechnya

LD2307101396 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0748 GMT 23 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 23 Jul — The Russian forces in Chechnya do not have chemical weapons, and it is ill-intentional disinformation to circulate rumors on its use. Major General Vladimir Orlov, the deputy commander of the radiation, chemical and biological protection forces of the Russian Armed Forces, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. He said that Movladi Udugov, the information minister of the self-proclaimed republic of Ichkeriya, "is disinforming Russian and world public not for the first time." In an interview with Ekho Moskvy radio station today, Udugov claimed that federal forces had used chemical toxic substances in Shatoy region on 22 July. "These claims are completely groundless," the general stressed.

"I am repeating this once again, and I can testify to this at any level that Russian forces have not used and are not using chemical weapons in Chechnya. We are now preparing for their elimination, and there is not a single person in the country who could have issued an order on delivering to the North Caucasus even a small consignment of shells or mines, never mind issue an order on their combat use," the representative of the military department stressed.

The Russian Army, according to Orlov, has never used chemical weapons against the enemy, even during the years of the war. Apart from the moral considerations, the general said, there are also technical obstacles. For example, no region will agree to dangerous substances being transported across its territory. Moreover, any movement of "special cargos" to Chechnya would immediately become widely known and meet with the appropriate reaction. From the military viewpoint, the use of military chemical agents in mountainous and wooded terrain and in conditions of fog constitutes a real danger to the lives of troops; and no commander would make the decision to use shells or mines loaded with chemical agents.

The Russian military department believes that the hullaballoo raised by the irreconcilable Chechen opposition is linked with the obvious defeat sustained by the bandit formations and their desire to take respite before regrouping their forces and accumulating weapons and ammunition. There is also a political motive for the "information attack" against the Russian Army. The 14th session of the preparatory commission for a chemical weapons ban opened in The Hague on 22 July. Most of the 160 countries who signed the agreement for a chemical weapons ban are taking part in it. The separatists are clearly hoping for a response by misinforming the world community, the representative of the Russian military department stressed in conclusion.

Russia: Chechens Say Dudayev Alive; 'Widow' Probably in Turkey

MM2207155696 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Yakov: "No One in Chechnya Believes Dudayev Is Dead"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Groznyy — The long search for the Chechen president's widow, who disappeared mysteriously a month ago from her father's home near Moscow, is now pointless, to all appearances. There is no threat to Alla Dudayeva and she is among her own people.

The day before I left for Chechnya I met again with Dudayeva's father, Fedor Vasilyevich Kulikov and asked him what had become of his daughter. "Everything's OK," he replied. "I received a message from her: She is with her own people." According

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to Kulikov, he had a visit from two strangers, who, without entering his house, conveyed greetings from Alla. Judging by certain prearranged phrases, they definitely were bringing a message from Dudayeva, and not from the special services, who all this time for some reason have been trying to play down interest in the circumstances of the disappearance of the Chechen president's widow. To that end the press was fed time after time, via news agencies, mutually exclusive theories about her whereabouts: Relatives would pop up in Russian cities; there would be requests for political asylum in Finland or in Switzerland.

Now there is clearly no longer any need to put forward theories. Alla Dudayeva certainly has gone abroad, where she was planning to meet with her children. Although it is too early to be able to be 100 percent certain about this, let alone name the country. At any rate, Dudayeva's father does not intend to specify his daughter's whereabouts, claiming that he does not know the address. But that does not matter, he says, the main thing being that his daughter is safe.

According to indirect data, one can assume that the Chechen president's widow, if you can actually call her a widow, has probably gone to Turkey, where the Dudayevs' younger, 12-year-old son, Degi, had previously been taken. To do that she did not need to cross her own homeland's border by illegal paths, using forged documents. She would have been able to use her own passport, which, while she was detained in Nalchik, was kept by her guards, and they, as you know, flew to Turkey. Apparently, there was nothing preventing them from returning for Alla with this passport.

While in Chechnya I tried through various sources to check the stories about the strange affair of Dzhokhar Dudayev's widow and also establish her whereabouts. But I have not been particularly successful. The last thing the republic's official authorities are concerned about is the fate of Dzhokhar's relatives, which, I suppose, is not surprising. The supporters of the first Chechen president were also tracking the widow's movements without any particular reverence, since they were more concerned about the fate of their living leaders, whom the federal forces, essentially, are blatantly hunting down. But most important, most of Dudayev's supporters still believe that their president is alive and is simply keeping out of the way for a while, for strategic military reasons and through injury. The sensational statement by Salman Raduyev, who claimed that he had come from Dzhokhar, further strengthened Chechens' belief that their first president really is alive. Incidentally, the appearance of Raduyev himself did not cause much surprise here, since practically everyone in Chechnya knew and had always said that he had not been killed, but had merely been seriously injured and had gone abroad for treatment. So yet another "success" for the Russian special services, who had allegedly managed to turn Raduyev's colleagues against him, turned out to be a bluff. Raduyev had again outwitted his Pervomayskoye rival — Barsukov. The Kremlin security general is now retired, and Colonel Raduyev is back in the saddle.

In a lane on the outskirts of Groznyy I managed to find Dudayev's elder brother, Bekmirza. I intended to talk with him about the fate of Dzhokhar and Alla, but as soon as Bekmirza heard that he was faced with a journalist from Moscow he suddenly came out with the kind of choice Russian swear words, which not even a federal soldier would have been capable of. As far as I could tell from this scorching tirade, Bekmirza refused point-blank to talk with the man from Moscow, but the other relatives, who greeted me at the gate were more amiable and, having apologized for the elder Dudayev, "who had had to put up with a lot from Russians and journalists," made it clear that they were not particularly concerned either about Alla's fate, since she was among her own people, and they would take care of her. As for Dzhokhar, "he is actually alive." Indeed, none of his relatives saw him killed. The only trifling thing that remains to be done is to find Dzhokhar and Alla and interview them. But it is this trifling thing that we cannot arrange for some reason.

Russia: Chechnya: Russian Forces Continue Operations in Shatoy

LD2307065196 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0633 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] GROZNYY, July 23 (Interfax) — Russian troops in Shatoy district, Chechnya, continue an operation to stamp out groups of separatist militants, Interfax was told at the press center of the federal troops command in Groznyy Tuesday.

According to the military, in the mountains separatists have been pushed to rocky areas and troops conduct intensive artillery and tank fire at their positions.

Meanwhile, low clouds, mist and drizzling rain block the use of combat aviation, thus reducing the effectiveness of federal actions.

The press center said five militants were destroyed in Shatoy district Monday along with three cross country vehicles and a 120 millimeter mortar.

Reconnaissance and search operations continue in Vedeno district where separatist units remain active, the press center said. In Dyshne-Vedeno federal troops destroyed two militants and a Niva car Monday.

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A spokesman for the command said federal positions came under militant fire 14 times Monday, causing losses.

In Leninsky district of Groznyy federal servicemen discovered 18 82-millimeter mines and 11 detonators. An anti-tank mine was rendered harmless on the Rostov-Baku highway near Assinovskaya.

The Russian military claims militants are demoralized. "Many of the irreconcilables refuse to continue resistance. There have been cases when militants have returned to population centers," the press center said.

Economic Issues

Russia: Duma Warned of Delay to Investments

MM2307091396 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 19 Jul 96 Weekend Edition p 5

[Article by A. Yevgenyev: "Will the Communists Let Investors Into Russia?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today the State Duma is giving a first reading to a draft law designed to set in place a mechanism for attracting large investments into the Russian economy.

Evidently unable to counter the endearing, insurmountable Russian habit of putting off the most important decisions until the last minute, the deputies decided to "get to grips" with the draft law "On a List of Underground Sectors and Deposits Where Exploitation Rights May Be Granted on Output-Sharing Terms" on the final day of parliament's work, on the eve of the long summer vacation. As we know, the actual law "On Output-Sharing Agreements" was adopted last December, and it did not originally suggest that it would also be necessary to approve in legislation the list of projects to which it applied. Indeed, why do we need yet another document, if each agreement is signed by the state and the investor? Because the left-wing majority among the deputies nevertheless insisted on it, so the government has submitted to parliament a list of 250 deposits. Precisely 213 of them are oil and gas deposits, approximately 20 are metal ore deposits, and a similar number contain stocks of precious stones. Remembering how difficult it was to get the output-sharing law through parliament, experts reckon the chances of the list's being approved at the first attempt at 50-50.

The law's drafters are most afraid that the discussion will assume an overideologized nature, as has happened repeatedly before. Once again there will be a torrent of groundless charges of "selling off the motherland," making one-sided concessions to foreigners, and indulging the fuel and energy complex without justification. The draft's supporters will be forced for the umpteenth time to try to prove something that is obvious: that there are no privileges for foreigners, if only because licenses are owned by Russian firms, and that no foreigner will set foot on a deposit without their consent. No one intends to sell the last drop of oil abroad (between 50 and 80 percent of the oil extracted is the state's share, and the rest belongs to Russian and foreign investors). Investments made under output-sharing agreements will not only go into the fuel and energy complex but will inevitably take up capacity in related sectors (under projects already more or less drawn up, 45-85 percent of the equipment will be produced in Russia). Output-sharing agreements are not a concession to the West but a quite different mechanism for redistributing profits, which guarantees stability for the whole term of a treaty and so makes it possible to calmly begin the long-term elaboration of capital-intensive projects without a ready infrastructure. At the same time it is a very flexible mechanism, which makes it possible to rescue dying deposits such as Samotlor, where approximately 1 billion (!) tonnes of oil are still "sitting there" but cannot be extracted without special technologies under the present direct taxation system.

All this has long been clear, however, to anyone willing to understand it, while those unwilling to "see" are never going to. Let us remind ourselves that the law on output-sharing agreements was adopted, the majority of deputies ultimately voted for it, and it is now a question of giving the list of deposits the green light by approving it.

"It is important to give the law, the whole list, a first reading now," Aleksey Mikhaylov, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Natural Resources and the Use of Nature, believes. "Then we can give it the second and third readings in August, when we meet to approve the prime minister. So that by the end of the year we will be able to sign several more agreements (three are already in effect, having been upheld), next year investments will start coming in, in two or three years' time major projects will get under way, and in five to seven years' time we will be getting a good return. Is that too long to wait? But such things are never done any faster. Incidentally, the Ob deposit alone promises a profit of $170 billion, but it also demands considerable expenditure of approximately $100 billion. Neither the state nor Russian investors have that kind of money."

The position of sullen mistrust taken by the State Duma's left wing and, in particular, by Communist deputies means that we also have to think about another possibility, namely that the draft law on the list of deposits is killed off. Strictly speaking, the left-wing factions' representatives have no complaints specifically against a particular project, and none of

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them is proposing to strike out or add anything. You simply hear this refrain: "The list is too long." This at a time when many regions and companies are literally panting to squeeze themselves onto the list.

What awaits us if the draft law is not even given a first reading? In that case, Mikhaylov says, the government will obviously have to propose a shortened version later. But it will include the same deposits — the Lord above is not going to send us any new ones just because the State Duma wants him to. So no one will gain anything. And the most important point is that we will lose time which is so essential for preparing agreements and generally improving the investment climate. Money will not come to us until there are firm legislative guarantees.

Incidentally, another draft law closely linked with the first — a purely technical one amending federal laws to accommodate the adoption of the law on output-sharing agreements — is being submitted simultaneously for parliamentary hearings. Experts claim that, if people politicize that and kill it too, then the question of major investment in the Russian economy can be said to have been shelved indefinitely.

Russia: Operations Staff Targets 77 Items for Expenditure Cuts

MM2307102296 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Berger: "List of 77. Staff for Combating Expenditure Set Up in Moscow"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last week Viktor Chernomyrdin directed that an Operations Staff for the formulation and implementation of urgent stabilization measures in the economy be set up. Chernomyrdin himself heads the staff, along with his first deputy Vladimir Kadannikov. The staff also includes people from the Finance Ministry, the Economy Ministry, the Customs Committee, the State Committee for Statistics, the State Tax Service, the government apparatus — in short, all those who are responsible for incoming and outgoing budget money.

One of the Operations Staff's main tasks is to combat expenditure not stipulated in the budget.

It is well known that the situation regarding budget income is extremely strained. With taxes coming in at a level of 60 percent of the plan, purely arithmetically speaking this leaves no chance of funding (at least at the planned level) many of the expenditure items planned in the same budget. However, the events of recent months have shown that the situation regarding state expenditure is even more strained than with income. The main event that created this tension was the election.

The decisions that followed "in the footsteps" of election promises will cost many trillions of rubles. Some of them can and should be fulfilled, although they were not provided for in the current year's budget. It is the staff's job to "seek and destroy" those decisions that were made in the heat of the moment or whose fulfillment could be postponed. The staff also proposes to suspend the fulfillment of a number of expenditure decisions which were adopted independently of the elections, in the usual way, but whose fulfillment is either beyond the treasury's powers or could be postponed.

A preliminary "hit list" of 77 decisions that were originally adopted at various levels has been drawn up and is being examined at the very top. Naturally, the final decision to ax one payment or another will be made not only on the basis of the budget's economic potential and economic expediency, but as a result of a contest of influence and interests.

Among other things, it is proposed to postpone to January 1997 the wage increase, abolition of taxes, and granting of a 50-percent reduction on payments for municipal services and telephones for judges and court apparatus workers. The cost of this is 1.3 trillion rubles [R]. The staff proposes not to get too carried away with expenditure on the restoration of Chechnya's economy, the scale of which, under the presidential edict, is even more impressive — R16 trillion and $1 billion. Incidentally, some of the money has already been spent under this program.

The list also includes the government decision on funding a targeted program for the development of Sochi as a resort of federal significance at a cost of R800 billion, the president's edict on state support for military-industrial enterprises located in Tatarstan (R307 billion), and the government decree allocating 12 billion for events associated with the 240th anniversary of the Altay people's voluntary entry into the Russian state.

I think not only members of the Operations Staff, but ordinary taxpayers are well able to assess the validity, urgency, and scale of the proposed expenditure, as well as the level and breadth of resistance from interested persons, groups, and territories.

The list of decisions that it is proposed to revoke include some that are striking not so much because of the sum of expenditure proposed as because the decision arose at all. For instance, the government decree on allocating nearly R50 billion for the celebrations of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the Demidov metallurgical plant and the 250th anniversary of the Russian samovar. You would think it was a new Russian samovar, if it is throwing a banquet costing nearly $10

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million and the whole country's taxpayers are supposed to collect the money for the celebrations. Russia is, of course, the world champion at finding pretexts for having a few drinks and reasons for spending budget money, but even so....

The government promised money (and big money — R75 billion) to help Alla Pugacheva's cultural center. The problem is that our remarkable singer has obtained a lease on Moscow's "Forum" movie theater for her center. So now she needs money to modernize the building. With the sincerest respect for our star, I would like to inquire timidly: Why should the modernization be paid for out of the barely surviving budget?

In short, the Operations Staff list (which, let me remind you, includes more than 70 expenditure decisions) contains something to read, something to think about, and something to speculate about.

Naturally, the staff is also involved in looking for budget income. The proposals on sources of income are also fairly extensive and concern measures to increase income from the production and sale of alcohol and to improve the collection of customs payments.

One of the most interesting proposals is to transfer the collection of excise duties on oil and gas from the State Tax Service to the customs people. The idea is simple: The level of collection of taxes is about 60 percent, the level of collection of customs payments is 97 percent.

It is also proposed by presidential edict to suspend the payment of dividends by joint-stock companies until the companies have settled their debts to the budget and paid their wages. The staff is also working out a mechanism which would prevent companies from throwing profits into their dependent subsidiary enterprises and thereby avoiding taxes.

Those who go abroad should also add to the budget. The dues paid by individuals in certain countries (Japan, for instance) for crossing the border will probably be introduced here too. The charge is not expected to exceed $10. But if every departing traveler pays his mite, as the saying goes....

In short, the "fire brigade's" work is in full swing, although admittedly we do not yet know what can be saved as the financial conflagration is extinguished, or whether there will be any casualties in the process.

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International Affairs

Ukraine: Udovenko Outlines Goals of Prime Minister's U.S. Visit

LD2207160496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 22 Jul 96

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, July 22 (Interfax-Ukraine) — The main goal of the Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's working visit to the United States, to begin Thursday [25 July], is to establish personal contacts with the leadership of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and discuss broadening cooperation between Ukraine and these institutions, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko told journalists in Kiev Monday. Udovenko will accompany Lazarenko during the visit.

He said that the IMF board will discuss the situation with economic reforms in Ukraine during the delegation's visit to Washington.

In addition to meetings with the IMF and the World Bank, Lazarenko will meet with U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin and head of the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation Ruth Harkin, said Udovenko.

"Unfortunately, the United States is currently busy with two events, the Olympic Games and preparations for presidential elections, hence many of the politicians we would like to meet with will not be in Washington," he said.

Udovenko said the present trip does not mean the cancelation of his working visit to Washington scheduled for September.

Ukraine: Lazarenko Stresses Need for Foreign Aid

LD2207183896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1650 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kiev — The situation in Ukraine is very difficult. The wage debt to budget-funded organizations, together with pension arrears, stands at 310 trillion karbovantsi, exceeding two months' total of national and local budget receipts, Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko told visiting Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth. Without foreign aid, Ukraine will be unable to achieve parameters set in the memorandum on cooperation between Ukraine and the International Monetary Fund, the prime minister warned.

Lazarenko recalled that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had asked German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for 1 billion German marks in aid. The prime minister expressed hope that a favorable decision on the matter will be announced before Kohl's upcoming visit to Ukraine on 2-4 September. [passage omitted]

Ukraine: FM Udovenko Meets Bosnian Energy, Mining, Industry Minister

WS2307071196 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0124 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, July 23 — Construction, energy and mining are the top industries ripe for cooperation between Ukraine and Bosnia-Herzegovina, the region's Energy, Mining and Industry Minister Enver Kreso said Monday on a visit to Kiev to discuss the possibilities.

Kreso met Monday with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko.

Speaking on cooperation in the energy industry, Kreso said: "There is a lot of equipment from Ukraine and many thermal electric power plants and mines (in Bosnia-Herzegovina). Today I've met my colleague from Ukraine and we worked together planning the reconstruction of a thermal power plant. I believe we'll renovate it together."

Privatization is another arena for cooperation.

"Bosnia is interested in the experience Ukraine grained through a couple of years of privatization," Kreso said.

According to Udovenko: "The government of Ukraine has worked out the complex program of Ukraine's participation in the restoration of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Udovenko said a coordination committee headed by the deputy foreign economic ties minister is being established and a range of measures on the organization of Ukraine's participation in the restoration have been determined, Udovenko said. "We consider Mr. Kreso's visit as very important for furthering the contacts which have been already initiated," Udovenko said.

Udovenko said Ukraine is committed to helping stabilize the region and participates in regional conferences on political and economic problems, including supplying troops to the international peacekeeping force.

Udovenko also announced that Ukraine will be giving Bosnia-Herzegovina $50,000 to help pay for post-war democratic elections in the region: "We understand that the sum is rather symbolic, but it shows that the government of Ukraine wants to participate in the restoration of Bosnia-Herzegovina and in all processes taking place there."

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Ukraine: Moroz Assures German Bundestag President of Ukraine's Stability

LD2207200196 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1650 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — German Bundestag President Rita Suessmuth has expressed confidence that the new constitution would give a genuine boost to economic reforms in Ukraine. Speaking at a meeting with Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz, Suessmuth warned that the German investor still viewed the situation in Ukraine as uncertain and unstable. This view was being reinforced by the recent coal strike, the attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko, as well as Ukraine's continuing energy dependence on other countries.

Moroz assured the German speaker that the situation in Ukraine was in fact stable, and the recent developments were a result of the general systemic crisis in the economy, which could be overcome in time and with the help of foreign investment. He stressed the role of the German Bundestag in promoting investment in Ukraine. The Ukrainian speaker stressed the need for joint Ukrainian-German ventures, such as the proposed project to manufacture grain harvesters. The project allows the creation of three or four new types of grain harvesters, he said. Suessmuth described the proposal as very attractive to German businessmen, adding that many German companies were competing for participation in similar projects. Moroz said Ukraine was also ready for cooperation in the aviation and space industries and in high technology.

Suessmuth told Moroz that the German Parliament would ratify the cooperation treaty between the EU and Ukraine in September. The two speakers discussed Ukraine's proposal to hold an international conference on security and cooperation in Europe. According to Moroz, the proposal will be discussed at an OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] summit in Lisbon in December 1996. He stressed the importance of Germany's support for Ukraine's position regarding NATO expansion, including the proposal to ban the deployment of nuclear weapons on the territory of prospective NATO members.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Kuchma Announces Government Changes Before Going on Leave

LD2207173596 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1537 GMT 22 Jul 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Leonid Kuchma announced some government changes and met Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Pinzenik to discuss tax reform as well as members of the Council of Producers and Employees before going on leave on Saturday, Kuchma's press office told Interfax.

Oleksandr Omelchenko takes temporarily in charge as mayor of Kiev following the dismissal of Leonid Kosakivsky in response to an earlier government request.

Ukrainian Ambassador to Canada Vladimir Furkalo is appointed as the country's permanent representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, and Oleksandr Bozhko as Ukrainian ambassador to the Republic of Armenia.

Vladimir Tsymbaluik was released from his post as head of the government committee of experts because of retirement.

Ukraine: Appeal to Kuchma Warns of 'Nationwide Explosion' in Fall

AU2307102896 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Jul 96 p 2

["Appeal by Ukraine's People's Deputies, Members of Ukraine's Social Democratic Party, to Ukrainian President L. Kuchma: Your Decisive Actions...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Mr. President,

Ukraine is again facing a crucial choice. The events of recent days, especially in Ukraine's southeastern regions, where an extremely acute and dangerous situation has taken shape, have shown graphically to everybody that the economic "policy of impoverishment" has exhausted itself. The decline in production in basic branches of the economy, the growth of hidden unemployment, and the failure to pay wages which is regarded as the government's open contempt of the people, have reached a critical dimension. Today, not just the course of reforms, proclaimed by you, but also social peace and harmony in society and the very existence of the state are under the general threat of collapse.

The controversial and difficult constitutional process gave us hope that common sense and ability to compromise on the part of all balanced political forces and

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legislative and executive powers will become a basis for Ukraine's modern political life and will make it possible to shape a new political course of reforms. Life itself inexorably demands that an end be put to the pseudo-reform phraseology, which just covers up the dangerous experiments staged on the people and on the economy of our country. A new political course of reforms must be based upon realistic and pragmatic steps that are primarily aimed at the following:

— to see to it that people receive on time what they have earned and that the real wages increase, and not to curb inflation artificially by way of "eating up" the unpaid part of the wages or steadily reducing its share in the GNP;
— to ensure effective protection by the state of those branches of industry that are vitally important for the national economy rather than care about the size of wallets of the parasitic nomenklatura-economic clans;
— to expand the sphere of contact and responsibility in relations among the state, trade unions, and employers' associations rather than introduce authoritarian and police methods in management and resolution of conflict situations.

On the behalf of our voters, who, like the entire Ukrainian nation, have found themselves below the subsistence level, we call upon you, Mr. President, to make use of all the powers granted to you by the new Ukrainian Constitution in order to change the policy, which is dangerous with regard to the people and pernicious for the economy and for the state. Unless this is done without delay, a nationwide explosion with unpredictable consequences may occur as soon as this coming fall. We rely upon your political wisdom, courage, and will.

Those forces that suffered a defeat on 28 June are, so far, demoralized, but they watch the development of events holding their breath, and their historical experience prompts them: "The worse it is the better!" — this is their last chance for a requital.

Mr. President, our future and the future of our children and grandchildren and the future of the country depend today upon the decisiveness of your actions! Our hard-working people must live in a law-governed and democratic state and be happy and prosperous!

[Signed] Yuriy Buzduhan, Ukraine's people's deputy, chairman of Ukraine's Social Democratic Party [SDPU]; Mykola Karnaukh, Ukraine's people's deputy, chairman of the SDPU parliamentary club; and Hryhoriy Rychahov, Ukraine's people's deputy, chairman of the SDPU Odessa regional organization.

Ukraine: Prime Minister: Chernobyl Agreements Not Being Implemented

LD2207190896 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1650 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev — Two power generating units at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant are no longer operating, with unit No. 1 due to be disconnected in October-November, Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko told a German Bundestag delegation.

He complained that agreements reached between the G-7 and Ukraine regarding Chernobyl are not being carried out. The Ukraine Government is doing its utmost to ensure the implementation of the agreements, Lazarenko said. He added that more than 600 children in radiation affected areas are suffering from thyroid cancer, three times the rate in unaffected regions.

In reply to the delegation's question about Ukraine's dependence on Russian fuel, Lazarenko said it is a "complex issue," and there is "no quick way to resolve it." Last year, Ukraine received 11 billion cubic meters of gas from Turkmenstan. This year, it has already received 12 billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas, with plans to bring the amount to 24 billion cubic meters by the end of the year.

The prime minister pointed out that Russia, in turn, depends on Ukraine for the transit of its gas. Russia delivers 118 billion cubic meters of gas through Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Government is taking steps to increase the amount to 140 billion cubic meters, he said.

Ukraine: Article Backs Resettlement of Chernobyl Zone

AU2207174096 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 19 Jul 96 p 2

[Article by Danylo Kulynyak: "It Is Worth Resettling the Chernobyl Zone? (A Few Unorthodox Views of Painful Problems)"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The more visits I make to the "estrangement zone" (I have been doing that rather often and for quite some time), the more convinced I become — the Chernobyl region must be resettled with volunteers and be returned back to life; new enterprises and jobs must be created there. There is enough work there for everybody and for several generations to come. In my opinion, the greater part of the "30-km estrangement zone," with the exception of the "10-km zone" and also some individual areas, can (and must!) be resettled. The radiation background there, including in the town of Chernobyl itself, is not higher than in Kiev, and in some villages, such as Teremtsi, Ladyzhychi, Paryshiv, Zamoshshya, and

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Bychky (I could continue this list), it is even lower, or absolutely normal. The so-called "hot particles" that may be ingested with food constitute a certain hazard, but to prevent this from happening, it is necessary to provide ecologically clean food and appropriate medical control and care for those who will live and work there. Ukraine badly needs forests and their product — timber. The wooded Chernobyl region could provide our nation with 200,000 hectares of high-grade forest. The "Chernobyllis" [Chernobyl forest] institution already works there — this work must be supported in every way.

It is worth planting trees on as much of the territory as possible, since forests are a kind of protectors against radioactivity. In Poland, 10 percent of the diesel fuel is produced from rape — why not sow fields affected by radiation with this agricultural crop and do that not just in Chernobyl, but in other oblasts as well? Hundreds and thousands of hectares of rape would provide our state with additional hundreds of thousands of metric tons of diesel fuel and with high-quality technical lubricants. Other agricultural crops can also be cultivated on these lands — for industrial needs, crops that are not used for food. It is worth developing seed farming — it is common knowledge that certain doses of radiation improve the quality of seeds.

I am now going to express an idea, which is totally heretical — I believe that in the present energy and economic crises the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES] should not be closed down at all, but on the contrary, its capacity must be increased through commissioning new safe and advanced reactors. All the people have been, anyway, evacuated forever from the "10-km zone" immediately adjacent to the Chernobyl AES. It is better to build the AES there and not in densely populated areas unaffected by radiation. Ukraine just cannot do without atomic power engineering. It is necessary to urgently start a fundamental comprehensive examination of several hundred Chernobyl region residents who have lived there since the catastrophe (the "unauthorized settlers") — this may provide unique scientific material of worldwide significance, material whose consequences are hard to overestimate. These consequences may turn out to be unexpectedly encouraging. [passage omitted].

Also, a certain strictly administrative-territorial reorganization is necessary. Everyone knows that too many cooks spoil the broth — duplication and scattering of efforts (and of financing) is an inadmissible (and worthless) luxury. In the half-dead settlement of Poliske (it gives a somewhat weird impression after one has seen Chernobyl, which has been rendered quite habitable by contract workers), I heard that it is planned somewhere in the top echelons to transfer the rayon center town to the village of Krasyatychi, closer to Ivankiv, because Poliske will be fully evacuated. Accordingly, all structures necessary for the rayon center will be built in Krasyatychi — all of this will cost more than 1 trillion karbovantsi [K] — most of these funds will traditionally be misappropriated. Why is this necessary? Just so that yet another dwarf rayon with a full-scale bureaucratic apparatus be created out of a dozen villages that are not eligible for resettlement? To satisfy somebody's ambitions? There is no definition for such intentions other than wastefulness.

Some authoritative specialists believe (and I share their opinion) that after the 10 years since the Chernobyl catastrophe, when residents of the contaminated territories have already received 95 percent of all the resulting radiation, it is generally meaningless to resettle them anywhere — it is late, too late. Considering that resettlement of a single family costs, on the average, more than K2 billion, it would be better to spend these funds on providing high-quality ecologically clean foodstuffs, medical services, rehabilitation, in other words, normal living conditions for those who reside in contaminated territories and are eligible for resettlement. Incidentally, in the neighboring Belarus, there was practically no resettlement, with the exception of the 30-km zone. However, this issue is open to discussion and a topic for another conversation. In any case, anybody who wishes to must be given the opportunity to move to another place. I believe that, in view of the specific circumstances and conditions, the territories adjacent to the "estrangement zone" must be given a special status — strictly administrative. In my opinion, it would be worthwhile uniting Ivankiv and Polissya rayons of Kiev Oblast in a single administrative-territorial entity and also add to it Narodytskyy and probably also the northeastern part of Ovruch Rayon in Zhytomyr Oblast. It would be logical to make Ivankiv the center of this in many ways unique administrative-territorial entity (let us tentatively call it the Chernobyl district) with granting it the status of own. It would house the state administration and all other enterprises, institutions, and structures for catering to the vital needs of the district covering an area of 7,000 square km (2,000 or 3,000 of this area might become an international radiation reserve). It is simply uneconomic to maintain the apparatus of three rayons, in which a total of hardly more than 100,000 persons reside, with more than 50 percent of the population living in Ivankiv Rayon. This is a waste of funds and efforts. These rayons are united by the same problems and the same misfortune, so that it is more expedient to overcome them in a centralized manner — by joint efforts. In creating the Chernobyl district, it would be worthwhile creating in its center — Ivankiv — a comprehensive sci-

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entific and practical center for tackling post-Chernobyl problems; a modern medical compound with a center for radiation medicine where all available achievements of world science, technology, and medicine would be concentrated so that those patients who find it difficult to travel by public transportation would not have to go to Kiev; a modern building for veterans and invalids affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe (in those rayons, there are thousands of single, elderly pensioners who urgently need care). [passage omitted]

Instead of a postscript: I realize that this article will give rise to a negative reaction or active counteraction, as well as resistance on the part of present structures capitalizing on Chernobyl: governmental, state, and commercial structures that have transformed the "30-km estrangement zone" into a kind of state within a state. After one reads a number of publications in the press, in particular, materials of Ukraine's Supreme Council Commission for Issues of Combating Organized Crime and Corruption headed by people's deputy H. Omelchenko, it becomes clear that the international Chernobyl-centered mafia has transformed the "estrangement zone" into a kind of "washing machine" for laundering money, into "a commercial venture taking advantage of peoples' distress" with Ukraine's Ministry of Chernobyl used as a cover. The "estrangement zone administration" is a subdivision of Ukraine's Ministry of Chernobyl. It is therefore understandable that they should react painfully to any interference from outside in their affairs. It is consequently crucial for that the newly created Chernobyl district not to be in any way subordinated to Ukraine's Ministry of Chernobyl or even be dependent on it — it must be an administrative-territorial entity under oblast or republic jurisdiction. All the more so since the existence of such a structure at the Ministry of Chernobyl seems to me to be dubious and open to question. Nor is it a secret that Chernobyl's problems have become a subject of political speculation, a "trump card" even in interstate games, and a means for eliciting something from abroad. Of course, the present politicians will not want to be robbed of their Chernobyl arguments. As a result, they do not hasten to solve the Chernobyl problems.

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Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka: Moscow 'Gravely' Violating Customs Accords

LD2207140896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1333 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, July 22 (Interfax-West) — Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka criticized Moscow for nonfulfillment of obligations on Customs Union agreements reached earlier.

Moscow gravely violates provisions of the Belarusian-Russian agreements on tariffs for the import of goods, Lukashenka said in an address to a congress of Belarusian businessmen in Minsk on Monday [22 July].

He said that the matter concerns a violation of the concept of the so-called "null version" agreement, in line with which the Russian government is to pay off Belarus' debt for gas already supplied along with other commitments. In return, Belarus will transfer strategically important sites to Russia for long periods of exploitation. In addition, Minsk agreed not to levy payments on the transit of fuel, energy and cargo transported through the republic's territory.

In line with the agreements reached between the Russian and Belarusian presidents, the null version will be implemented provided the parties fulfill all provisions in general. If at least one of the provisions is not fulfilled, a party may refuse to fulfill major provisions of the agreement as a whole.

The null version should not be considered as a charitable action either on the part of Russia or on the part of Belarus, Lukashenka said.

He said he does not see Belarus' development without the closest cooperation with Russia.

Lukashenka declared the readiness of his country "for the closest integration with Russia, for which Russia will be ready."

Lukashenka reported that he signed a decree Monday on support for business. The decree provides for the creation of favorable conditions for the activity of businessmen involved in the manufacture of goods. He also reported that a Business and Investments Ministry has been created in line with his decree. Former presidential economics aide Alyaksandr Sazonov will head the ministry.

Belarus: Report on U.S. Envoy Collins' Talks in Minsk

WS2307114296 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 21 Jul 96

[Video report by Irina Sushkevich on visit to Minsk by James F. Collins, U.S. ambassador-at-large to the CIS states — recorded passages are in Russian]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to Mr. Collins, his visit to Minsk had two aims: to discuss prospects for implementing joint projects with the Belarusian Government and to evaluate the stability of Belarus' economic platform. A number of agreements and treaties have been signed between the two states since 1991, including within the framework of joint activities to decrease the nuclear threat — the well-known Nunn-Lugar program. In 1995 alone, the United States granted $46 million in assistance to Belarus for the implementation of this and other programs. The United States has expressed interest in Belarus' development, including in the banking sphere, privatization, and the development of small and medium-size businesses, which became evident during the course of President Lukashenka's visit to the United States and his meetings with representatives of U.S. business circles.

Evaluating the two states' joint activities, James Collins pointed out:

[Begin recording] [Collins] We have made certain concrete steps which I believe are very positive. We held a session of the Bilateral Committee for the Development of Businesses at the end of May in Minsk. At the end of June, the U.S. Senate finally approved and ratified the treaty on investments. Ford, a large company of ours, has just signed a contract with Belarusian companies. This means that tangible progress is being made. Nevertheless, I think that our prospects are much greater than the results, and that we should work to resolve the problems of building a foundation for market relations in Belarus. This will attract investments more actively.

[Sushkevich] How does the United States assess the existing investment climate in Belarus?

[Collins] To attract investments you should create a basis for the market economy, for instance in the field of custom policies, in the field of stabilizing your currency, and the like. [end recording]

The bilateral agreement signed on 18 July in Minsk provides the legal definition of the mechanism for rendering assistance to Belarus by the United States. On the one hand, humanitarian and technical aid, including to Chernobyl, will become more targeted. On the other

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hand — which is important — in the event U.S. inspection teams find out that the aid is used for other purposes, the Belarusian Government would be obliged to make a refund to the United States. Ambassador-at-Large Collins underscored that the agreement is an important bench mark in the development of Belarusian-U.S. relations. However, in his opinion, the available potential is not being fully realized, particularly as a result of the heavy tax burden placed on foreign enterprises on the territory of Belarus, as well as due to the fact that the banking sphere is still being established.

The problem of European security also was discussed in Minsk.

[Begin Collins recording] I have seen the interest Belarus displays on the issue of NATO's expansion. I have told my coworkers that I prefer to speak about the creation of a new system of European security and that the aim of the U.S. policy is to keep the European continent undivided and to develop and expand new systems which would beef up the security of all the states located on this continent. [end recording]

Mr. Collins was presented with the Belarusian Supreme Soviet's proposal to create a nuclear-free zone. He underscored that the proposal would be discussed in Washington in due time.

Summing up the results of the meeting at a news conference, James Collins generally expressed his satisfaction, but he emphasized again that Belarus' task is to become more specific. [as heard]

Belarus: Statement Issued on Belarus-Poland-Ukraine Minsk Meeting

WS2307081196 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0653 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 22 July — The press office of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has circulated an official press release about the results of a trilateral meeting between the foreign ministers of Belarus, Poland and Ukraine which took place in Brest on July 20.

During the negotiations the ministers discussed specific problems in the development of cooperation within the framework of the European Region "Bug" interregional programme and the participation of Belarus in it. The main objective of this programme is the establishment of closer cooperation between border regions in the three countries in the economic, cultural, ecological and other spheres.

According to the Belarusian foreign office, during the negotiations the parties exchanged opinions about the topical matters related to European security and discussed approaches to the elaboration of a model of all-embracing security in Europe in the 21st century. In the parties' opinion, such a model should be based on a concept of cooperation and mutual guarantees of national security, not on the principle of mutual deterrence. At the end of this year a model of European security is to be considered at a Lisbon-based forum of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) member states.

The ministers also discussed questions concerning co-operation in international organisations, including in the Central European Initiative, members of which Belarus and Ukraine became in May this year. The parties also exchanged opinions about trilateral humanitarian and scientific cooperation and joint activities in the field of environmental protection.

Belarus: Lukashenka Addresses Businessmen, Proposes New Constitution

WS2307073796 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0654 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, 22 July — On July 22 President Alyaksandr Lukashenka attended a "Congress of Business Circles in the Republic of Belarus" where he made a speech. As the President admitted himself, the initial part of his speech was of an aggressive character. He started with the direct question to the audience, "What are you, politicians or businessmen-entrepreneurs? Maybe, you are businessmen indulging in dirty politics?" In the opinion of the Chief of State, Belarusian entrepreneurs should exactly decide on this subject because no self-respecting state will support the businessman who rises in opposition to the state's policy.

According to Mr Lukashenka, he knows that at present there are some who are living looking forward to the President's impeachment. "The President has and will be established in place for a long time. How can you not understand that? You let yourself become involved in some kind of game with these presumptuous politicians who haven't found room not only in Belarus but also in neighbouring Poland... What response do you want from the President?" Nevertheless, the speaker said, even if entrepreneurs do not support him, he has authority enough to pursue policy according to the Constitution and to ensure provision of "what he promised to the people." According to the President, he is ready to support the businessmen involved in manufacturing. "Nobody will help you if you fail to find normal relations with the President," he said.

He added that he did not intend to leave unanswered any anti-government or anti-president opinions in the media

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by "businessmen indulging in dirty politics." As soon as they appear, appropriate inspection commissions will be sent to these entrepreneurs. The President stressed that business circles should not be involved in the "struggle between the branches of power", or be involved in the financing of "anti-state arrangements" of which, according to the President, he is well informed.

Mr Lukashenka informed those present that he had taken a number of measures aimed at the development of national enterprise and the attraction of internal and foreign investments. For instance he signed a decree on state support of small enterprise, which was drafted with the direct participation of business circles. It is aimed at support of producers since, according to the President, this is his position in principle. Among the main directions of state support the President promised tax privileges to private producers, the realisation of the principle of equality in rights of enterprises of all forms of ownership, incentives to internal investors in privatisation, selective support of some industries and projects. In addition, a new state body — the Ministry of Enterprise and Investment — has been established again on his initiative. Alyaksandr Sazonaw, the President's assistant until now, has been appointed as its minister.

According to information available at BELAPAN, Alyaksandr Sazonaw, a Russian, was born in Minsk in 1963. In 1986 he graduated from the Saratov-based Higher Military Chemical Protection Engineers School. On graduation he served at the Volsk-based subsidiary of the USSR Research Institute of Organic Chemistry and Technology. Then he worked in the Crimean production amalgamation "Khimprom," the Minsk electromechanical works and the production and commercial concern "Nyamiha." Prior to his appointment as the President's assistant, he was general director of the limited company "Sa-Nov."

The chief of the Central Economic Department under the Presidential Administration, Pyotr Kapitula, has been appointed as assistant to the President. He will be responsible for the realisation of large investment projects.

According to the President, society "should be taught the fact an entrepreneur is a normal man." He pointed out that businessmen should blame themselves for the fact that common people regard them negatively. The Chief of State stressed that he expected help from entrepreneurs above all in the creation of new jobs because this problem as well as the housing problem is Number One for him.

In conclusion the President informed those present that in autumn he intends to submit to Parliament a programme of economic development up to the year 2000 and the draft of a new Constitution, which, according to him, is based on the "experience of civilised democratic states." If the Supreme Soviet rejects these documents the President intends to exercise his right to put them on a national referendum. In Mr Lukashenka's opinion, legislators will have their own reasons for not seconding his proposals because the President suggests the establishment of a two-chamber parliament. Nevertheless, in his opinion, this is the sort of legislature that could ensure an effective mechanism of passing laws and interaction between legislators.

Belarus: Parliament Chairman Calls Presidential Staff 'Imposters'

LD2207145296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1329 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, July 22 (Interfax-West) — Parliament speaker Semyon Sharetskiy of Belarus has described as imposters a group of presidential staff members who, he says, are working behind the scenes on a draft of a new constitution, parliamentary spokeswoman Veronika Trizno told Interfax.

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, in a series of recent speeches, announced plans to call a referendum this autumn on a number of constitutional changes.

Trizno said the parliament did not authorize anyone to draw up a new constitution. She said the parliament was not engaged in any underhand dealing to impeach the president, nor should Lukashenka work in secret on the new basic law.

Pro-democracy deputies are ready to speak out against Lukashenka's idea of a referendum, which is in breach of the existing constitution, Deputy Chairman of the parliament Henadz Karpenka told reporters on Monday. He proposed that a five-year moratorium be imposed on any constitutional changes. The deputy speaker described the administration's attempt to flesh out a new basic law as an attempt to pull off a secret constitutional coup.

Moldova

Moldova: Ilascu Blames Snegur, Russia for Starting Dniester War

AU2007164996 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 19/07/1996 (BASA-press) — The weekly "SAPTAMANA" published Ilie Ilascu's [Moldovan political detainee in Tiraspol] notes dated July 17, 1996 on his meetings with representatives of Chisinau authorities over more than four years of detention and reasons for Snegur's behavior.

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Ilascu said Snegur rushed to demand pardon for the Ilascu group because Tiraspol authorities intended to set him free by May 1, 1996 on condition Ilascu conducts a press conference to make public "the truth about Snegur. Snegur tells everywhere that the war 'was imposed on him from outside' and never mentioned who they were, causing people to believe it was Romania. It is not true. The conflict was conceived in Moscow, suggested to Moldova (read Snegur) and accepted at will, though it was destined to be lost to capitulation. The Snegur regime's ideological stake was to exterminate the unionist 'danger' in Moldova. That is what he did with a few faults," said Ilascu.

Moldova: Snegur Still Not Ready To Sign Dniester Memorandum

AU2207111696 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 20 Jul 96

["Political Commentary: 'Uncertainties About Chisinau-Tiraspol Talks'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 20/07/1996 (BASA-press) — The Dniester conflict settlement talks risk to be suspended again for a long time. Only a week after Moldovan President Snegur and Dniester leader Smirnov agreed to the text of the Memorandum on the settlement of relations between Moldova and Dniester, Snegur stated the document cannot be signed before presidential elections. The head of state suggested that not the contents of the memorandum but the circumstances forced him not to sign the memorandum. And the memorandum is far from being direct and concrete; its signing would have had a symbolical importance. Snegur said "there are much more important problems" on the eve of the elections.

Moscow did not react to the Moldovan president's statements. The formal explanation is that for the Kremlin the signing of the memorandum was an element of Yeltsin's reelection campaign. Only the Russian presidential envoy to the talks, Yuriy Karlov stated "it is in the interest of all sides involved that the memorandum be signed as soon as possible." Yevhen Levytskyy, Ukrainian presidential envoy, noted the memorandum should be improved and "perhaps Chisinau has serious reasons for postponing the signing."

Snegur's opponents were fast to react to his statements. Speaker Lucinschi and Premier Sangheli favored the signing of the memorandum. The Socialist Unity parliamentary faction accused Snegur of reluctance to solve the Dniester conflict and pointed out to differences among the three leaders about the Dniester issue. Dniester Parliament Chairman Grigore Maracuta said Snegur's latest statements only strengthens the position of opponents to closer relations between Chisinau and Dniester. Maracuta hinted that Snegur provided serious reasons to believe that he took a hard position about Dniester. On the other hand, neither did Igor Smirnov seem to be pleased with the memorandum. At the last moment, he opted for the initial draft that secured a place for Dniester within a confederation. By signing the memorandum together with Yeltsin and Kuchma, Smirnov was in a much more favorable position in the face of Aleksandr Lebed's declared intentions "to cleanse" Dniester. Weather willing or not, Smirnov is interested to sign the memorandum.

The statements made by Moldovan Deputy Speaker Dumitru Motpan and Dniester Deputy Chairman Vitaliy Glebov that the memorandum must be signed as soon as possible suggested that the ruling party and other forces will exploit the Dniester factor in the fight against President Snegur. Snegur will probably be accused of being too hard with Tiraspol and will come in for criticism due to a new drawback in the talks. At the same time, the parliamentary leadership's intention to play a major role in the talks is becoming more evident. This situation is likely to cause debates in future about who is responsible for the failure — the presidency which is extremely limited by the Constitution and the Parliament which has much more powers.

Moldova: Dniester's Maracuta Favors Signing of Memorandum

AU2307073996 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, July 22 (INFOTAG) — Grigore Maracuta, the chairman of the Dniester Supreme Soviet, spoke in favour of soonest-possible signing of the Memorandum on normalizing relations between Moldova and Dniester.

In an interview, published by KISHINEVSKYE NOVOSTI weekly on Saturday, Maracuta said that "state of uncertainty, we are in at present, seems to be advantageous to Moldova. It was repeated more than once that it was no use waiting foreign investments under the current instability. But in reality, the instability plays against us. It is not an obstacle to Moldova. One can not exclude that the situation is aggravated intentionally, in order to bring down Dniester economic development, so to speak, in Moldova's favour, and to make us to accept conditions, favourable to Chisinau," Maracuta said.

In his words, the Memorandum should be signed, because it fixes the guarantees of Russia, Ukraine and the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe-OSCE. "Our perspectives are in that document.

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For example, a possibility to maintain independent external economic, technical, cultural contacts, which is important for Dniester's vital activity," Maracuta said.

"I don't understand the latest Snegur's declaration," that is how Maracuta commented on the statement, made by Moldovan president, that the Memorandum shall not be signed till the presidential elections in Moldova.

Such approach makes Maracuta think that "Moldova's leadership is not interested in preserving a united, integral state," that Dniester "is artificially expelled out of Moldova, and faces a tough choice — whether we shall go only into a unitary state (which is, as they understand in Moldova, impossible), or to sign nothing further on."

Maracuta believes that worsening economic situation on the left bank suits forces, which are not interested in settling the Dniester problem. "They can demand from us to give up any talks and to return to the positions of absolute independence," Maracuta warned.

He considers that Alexander Lebed, new Secretary of the Russia's Security Council and former commander of the Dniester-based 14th Army, known for his critical attitude to Dniester leaders, will not oppose normalization of relations between Dniester and Moldova, as well as Dniester's existence as a state-territorial entity.

As for the question, whether Smirnov's regime will survive after Lebed's coming into big politics, Maracuta said that Dniester "is not a Russian province, where Moscow decides, who should govern. We will have elections soon. If people consider it necessary to leave Smirnov — they will leave him, if not — they will replace him."

Moldova: Majority Factions in Chisinau, Tiraspol Favor Memorandum

AU2307074996 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, July 22 (INFOTAG) — Deputies of the Parliament of Moldova and the legislative body of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic spoke in favour of soonest-possible signing of the Memorandum on normalizing Chisinau-Tiraspol relations. They stated that at a bilateral meeting of legislators in Tiraspol on Sunday.

It is the second meeting of the deputies from the two sides of the Dniester. The first one took place a month and a half ago in Chisinau. The deputies decided to meet each other in order to facilitate the negotiations process on settling the conflict, parallel to the work done by experts' groups.

The Saturday meeting was devoted solely to the issue of signing the Memorandum, drafted and coordinated by the sides by late June. Tiraspol deputies and representatives of the Chisinau Parliament's majority factions (Agrarian and Socialist Unity) expressed concern about the declarations of the Moldova's President Mircea Snegur, who had spoken recently against signing the Memorandum.

"Everything shall be done to sign the Memorandum in the shortest terms. It will open the way for the final solution of the Dniester problem, and will give a possibility to the Dniester left bank inhabitants to participate in Moldova's presidential elections. This is very important, so that we had a new president, elected by the citizens of the whole country," Dumitru Motpan, deputy chairman of the Moldovan Parliament and the head of Moldovan delegation, told reporters after the meeting.

Moldova: OSCE Official Urges No Interruptions to Dniester Talks

LD2207175796 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 22 Jul 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, July 22 (Interfax) — Acting head of the OSCE mission in Moldova Branimir Radev believes that the negotiation process on the Transdniester settlement "should not be interrupted in any case," he told Interfax Monday.

According to Radev, the OSCE mission will actively assist in a search for a compromise and solution of the problem as a whole. He said the draft memorandum on principles of normalization of relations between Chisinau and Tiraspol coordinated by the parties "is a good ground for working out the region's status." He spoke in favor of creation of a permanent group which will directly start development of Transdniestria's status.

Russia and Ukraine, guarantors of the agreements, are interested in signing of the memorandum, he said. "Moldova and Transdniester region must say their final word," he said.

The parliamentary commissions of two parties adopted an address to leaderships of Chisinau and Tiraspol at the session on July 20 in which they stressed the need to speed up signing of the memorandum.

Moldovan President Mircea Snegur early July proposed to postpone signing of the memorandum till the presidential elections scheduled for November 17.

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Meanwhile, leader of the self-proclaimed Transdniester republic Igor Smirnov advocated signing of the memorandum as soon as possible as it defines principles of mutual relations between Moldova and Transdniestria.

"Any further negotiations between two parties seem to be doubtful without a logical conclusion of a long and complicated work, namely signing of a coordinated document," he said at the meeting with the Ukrainian president's representative at the Moldovan-Transdniester negotiations Yevgeniy Livitskiy Monday.

Earlier it was supposed to sign the memorandum in Moscow with participation of Russia and Ukraine, on the eve of the second round of the presidential elections in Russia. However, the procedure was postponed at the request of the Russian party.

Moldova: Sangheli Leaves for Moscow To Discuss Fuel Imports

AU2007153596 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 18 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau 18/07/1996 (BASApress) — Premier Andrei Sangheli left today for Moscow to conduct talks for new fuel imports from Russia as earlier fuel debts were not paid off. According to governmental sources, Sangheli will meet with Russian counterpart Viktor Chernomyrdin and officials from the Uralgazprom gas company.

Boris Karpov, deputy head of the Energy and Fuel Department, said that as of July 1 Moldova was in arrears of 1.609 billion lei to Uralgazprom, 872.4 million lei of which were run by Dniester.

Karpov said the Energy Department's total arrears stood at 3.065 billion lei as of July 1.

Moldova: Sangheli, Russia's Gazprom Agree Gas Debt Payment Schedule

LD2207172896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1711 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — Moldovan Prime Minister Andrey Sangheli and Russia's concern Gazprom approved a schedule of paying Moldova's debt for gas supplies which had reached 100 billion U.S. dollars as of July 1, 1996.

During their talks, Sangheli and Gazprom director Rem Vyakhirev agreed to divide the debt between Chisinau and the breakaway Dniester region (140 million U.S. dollars and 260 million U.S. dollars respectively), the bulk of which (120 million U.S. dollars) accumulated over the last two years.

Moldova said it could pay off the debt in seven years and is negotiating with Gazprom the possibility of transforming the debt into a state credit against government securities.

However, this scheme has been criticised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which has granted Moldova 230 million U.S. dollars in credits.

Sources in the Moldovan Government said the disagreements are likely to be resolved by the end of the week after consultations with IMF officials in Moldova and with lawmakers.

Moldova: Chisinau, Tiraspol To Divide Debt for Russian Gas Supplies

AU2207093996 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1930 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, July 19 (INFOTAG) — Moldova's debt for imported natural gas to Russian joint stock company Gasprom, totaling $400 million, is to be repaid for seven years, Andrei Sangheli, Moldova's Prime-Minister, told INFOTAG after visiting Moscow on Thursday.

The Prime-Minister said that he had met Gasprom's President, Rem Vyahirev, and they agreed to divide the debt between Moldova and Dniester, which had not been paying for gas at all for the last years.

Out of the total $400 million debt, Dniester indebtedness makes $260 million, and Moldovan — $140 million, including $120 million for the years 1994-1995.

Andrei Sangheli said, the repayment terms provide for two-years grace period.

The head of the cabinet discussed the problem of connecting Moldova to the common Russian-Ukrainian power grid, from which Moldova was disconnected two years ago. Moldovan Prime-Minister thinks that the solution of this problem will allow to provide the republic with electric power.

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Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstan: President on Integration, Ethnic Relations

MM2307080696 Moscow TRUD-7 in Russian 19-25 Jul 96 p 4

[Interview with Kyrgyz President Askar Akayev by observer Olga Solomonova, datelined Bishkek-Moscow; date not given: "Askar Akayev: 'We Have Never Moved Away from Russia'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Photographs showing Askar Akayev's broad smile have been seen all over the world. This is not a trick of the photographers' art. The Kyrgyz president's smile is just as winning in real life. He is ironic and loves to crack jokes, but if your contact with him is more than fleeting you also become aware of the deep concentration of the scientist and the solid political principles of the politician. I have frequently heard from foreigners carrying out major projects in Kyrgyzstan that you can work here in a calm and productive way.

What, then, has changed since the republic became independent? How close and promising are its relations with Russia? That was how my conversation with the president began. [passage omitted]

[Solomonova] Compared with many CIS countries, Kyrgyzstan is a very calm state. But fewer and fewer people in Russia today know about this or, incidentally, about the other former republics. On becoming independent they got bogged down in their own problems, becoming increasingly remote from one another and from Russia.

[Akayev] Unlike the other former Union republics, Kyrgyzstan has never actually moved away from Russia. As you know Boris Yeltsin paid his first official visit to us on becoming president of the Russian Federation, which was still part of the Union. We signed the first agreements on cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and Russia here. Moreover, Chuy Oblast maintains a permanent link with Moscow Oblast and St. Petersburg. The Kyrgyz-Russian Slav University, which Boris Yeltsin and I opened, also brings us close together....

I always stress that Russia was, is, and will remain our chief ally and partner in the 21st century. In 1993 we signed a fine treaty which has become the model of bilateral relations for all the republics. This year we elevated our relations to a new level, making them more specific in nature, and are right now engaged in setting up joint production.

[Solomonova] And yet, Askar Akayevich, part of the Russian population has left Kyrgyzstan.

[Akayev] That is, unfortunately, so — 150,000 Russians have left. But many are now returning. The Russian population in Kyrgyzstan today stands at 850,000. We tried to dissuade them from emigrating by adopting a state program designed to slow emigration down. And we have succeeded. Last year immigrants already outnumbered emigrants. It is gratifying that those returning are not only our Kyrgyz Russians but new people too. A special industrial recovery program has been developed with Russia. We ourselves proposed to our Russian partners a method of cooperation whereby they obtain the controlling block of shares or even all 100 percent of them. It is important for us that there be a joint revival of production so that our people have jobs, earn wages, and swell the budget with their taxes. We have stood and will continue to stand alongside Russia. [passage omitted]

[Solomonova] The processes of integration in the post-Soviet area are advancing more vigorously today — unions of four, three, and two countries are being formed. Kyrgyzstan has joined one of them, joining with Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus. Did you have to make a choice?

[Akayev] We firmly opted for this union from the very outset because it contains our main economic partners and political allies. Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan [as published] are the three countries on which Kyrgyzstan's future depends. The choice of integration into a customs union with Russia, Kazakhstan, and Belarus was therefore an informed one. This union is to our advantage. The area of the four states is now our common free market. Duties have been abolished, and our goods are already being exported to the neighboring republic. The turnover among our countries will increase, and consequently the revival of production, economic growth, and a corresponding increase in the people's living standards will start up.

[Solomonova] But Kyrgyzstan's political orientation and your own personal attitude toward democratic reforms played an important role in the choice of allies, did they not? After all, another "union of four," comprising Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Georgia, and Azerbaijan, has also been set up.

[Akayev] Of course, political criteria undeniably came into play first and economic ones second. Results, after all, take time; the important thing is to choose the right path. But everything advances with such difficulty! It can be said that the customs union is the first real step toward forming the economic union, the treaty on which we signed back in 1993....

[Solomonova] Let us hope that the union will soon yield its first fruit. Let us return to ethnic relations. They have,

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as is well known, been the cause in recent years of many conflicts, sometimes bloody ones, in Central Asia and the Caucasus. Everything is pretty calm, however, in your country. There have been no serious conflicts since the tragedy in Osh. How have you managed to remove, to extinguish ethnic tension?

[Akayev] In Kyrgyzstan today Kyrgyz form 58 percent of the population, Russians 19 percent, and Uzbeks around 13 percent. These three nationalities form the three pillars on which the country's stability rests. My task as president is to maintain the balance of this "triangle."

[Solomonova] And it does not arouse fears?

[Akayev] Not today. We have managed to defuse the tension in ethnic relations. And a great deal has been done to this end. For example, Russian has become an official language in Kyrgyzstan, republic and city newspapers come out in Russian, other publications are printed in Russian, Russian programs are broadcast on television, and so forth.

We were the first to create an Assembly of the Peoples. Such assemblies were subsequently organized in other countries. Our assembly brings together around 30 national cultural centers — a Slav and a Ukrainian center, three Uzbek centers, a Korean, Dungan, Uigur, German, and Karachay center, and so forth. We have united all the peoples of Kyrgyzstan in the assembly, and I hold it regularly.

No, there are no acute problems today, but constant painstaking work is required here. It can now be said, thank God, that we live in friendship and accord. Moreover, we seek to secure the fair representation of the peoples in all organs of power. Many people previously said that nothing would come of this: The Russians will elect only Russian deputies, the Kyrgyz Kyrgyz deputies. Nothing of the kind! Russians elect suitable Kyrgyz, while the inhabitants of Bishkek, for example, have elected a suitable Russian — Boris Silayev — as mayor. He is the only Russian mayor of a capital city in the CIS countries, excluding Moscow, of course. We also have Germans, Jews, and Uzbeks in the government — everyone is represented.... [passage omitted]

Kyrgyzstan: Impact of Power Crisis Felt in Bishkek

MM1907130696 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jul 96 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Razgulyayev under the "Our Correspondents Report" rubric: "Capital in Darkness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishkek — An energy shortage was the last thing people in Kyrgyzstan expected. On the contrary, all talk of independence was unfailingly based on the "sea of electricity" which hydroelectric stations built under Soviet rule would provide. They did indeed provide it while the old safety factor was maintained. But nothing new has been built in this very important sector of the economy during the reform years. On the contrary, the famous Naryngidroenergostroy — a collective of top-class specialists whose reputation is recognized throughout the world — has practically broken down. Construction of the unique Kambaratinskiy Hydroelectric Power Stations has been frozen. Without scheduled repairs, other stations' capacity is decreasing.

Planned electricity cuts have long been practiced in rural areas and some cities of Kyrgyzstan. This crisis measure has eventually reached Bishkek. Under a government decision the capital's rayons will be cut off from the system once a week according to a special schedule. It turns out that it is much easier to criticize old procedures than to merely maintain what was built in those very same "stagnant" times.

Kyrgyzstan: Three 'Powerful' Explosions Rock Bishkek

LD1907124096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 19 Jul 96

[By Alisher Niyazov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BISHKEK July 19 (Itar-Tass) — Three powerful explosions rocked law enforcement agencies in the Kyrgyz capital of Bishkek on Friday [19 July] which police believe was a revenge of criminals for anti-smuggling successes of authorities.

There were no casualties, but the buildings sustained considerable damage.

The presumably self-made explosive devices were all planted in the ventilation hatches of the interior department of Bishkek, the prosecutor's office of a Bishkek district and the administration offices of one of the jails.

They all went off in the morning at one and the same time with a several minute difference only, police said.

A high-ranking police officer told TASS that the explosions could be a revenge from local smugglers for the seizure by Kyrgyz police of major batches of smuggled spirits, leather and non-ferrous metals.

The smugglers have more than once promised a revenge to the republican law enforcement agencies, according to the officer who spoke on conditions he was not named.

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Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Government, Opposition Agree on 20 Jul Cease-Fire

LD1907135696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1348 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, July 19 (Interfax) — The delegations of the Tajik legitimate authorities and the Tajik opposition on Friday signed a joint statement to end combat actions starting from July 20, an Interfax correspondent reports from Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan, where the inter-Tajik government-opposition talks were held during the last ten days.

Under the joint statement, combat actions and other hostilities in Tajikistan, especially in the Tavil-Dara region (200 kilometers east of the Tajik capital of Dushanbe) and on the Tajik-Afghan border, should be ended at noon local time on the day following the statement's signing.

Under the statement, the sides' armed forces will remain where they were on the day when the statement was signed.

The sides' representatives will supply the mission of U.N. observers in Tajikistan with accurate information regarding the deployment of their armed formations along the line of engagement.

To cement the cease-fire regime and the end to other hostilities, the sides committed themselves to additional confidence-building measures, including the separation of troops in the Tavil-Dara area.

These measures will be coordinated within the scope of the joint commission and with the help of the U.N. observers' mission during ten days following the statement's signing.

Under the statement, the U.N. military mission will deploy two groups of its observers in the Tavil-Dara area on both sides of the line of engagement over three days. Observers will promptly check information about the positions of the sides along the front defense line supplied by the sides.

The Tajik government and opposition also agreed to guarantee the full security of members of the joint commission, secure the freedom of their movement and provide them with comprehensive assistance.

The government and opposition armed forces will clear mines, remove the blockade of roads and guarantee the safe transportation of civilians and civilian freight in the zones controlled by the government and opposition respectively.

The sides also confirmed their commitment to the Tehran peace agreement signed some two years ago and extended it until December 31, 1996.

During the talks, the delegations of the government and the opposition acted in a constructive fashion and showed their readiness for compromises, Herd Merrem, a special envoy of the U.N. secretary-general, said with regard to the statement's signing.

"The reinstatement of the cease-fire regime envisaged by the Tehran agreement is not an aim in itself but only the first serious move resultant from the talks, he said.

The U.N. envoy voiced the hope that all of the existing political problems would be resolved during the inter-Tajik talks.

The sides have also achieved a "considerable breakthrough regarding the protocol on the exchange of prisoners of war," Merrem said, adding that the draft protocol was expected to be finalized during the next two or three days.

During this period, the sides will also determine major problems that will have to be settled at the following rounds of government-opposition talks, the U.N. envoy said.

Tajikistan: Declaration Details Cease-Fire Agreement

LD1907151596 Dushanbe KHOVAR in Russian 1422 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 19 Jul (KHOVAR) — On the 12th day of the fifth round of the Tajik talks, the government delegation of Tajikistan and the delegation of the united Tajik opposition have signed a joint declaration to cease military actions and to observe the Tehran Agreement [for a cease-fire, itself signed last summer]. This important document was signed by Tajik Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov, head of the Tajik Government delegation, and Akbar Turajonzoda, head of the delegation of the united Tajik opposition, as well as Dietrich Merrem, special representative of the UN secretary general.

The declaration says:

1. The sides will cease military and other hostile acts within the country, especially in the Tavildara zone and on the Tajik- Afghan border, as envisaged in the Tehran Agreement. The accord comes into effect at 1200 local time on the day after the signing of the joint declaration [i.e., on 20 July].

2. The armed forces of the sides remain in the positions they occupied on the day this declaration was signed.

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Appropriate and authorized representatives of the sides will simultaneously present the UN Observers' Mission in Tajikistan with accurate information about the location of the armed formations along the conflict line. The sides have also agreed to implement additional trust-building measures, including the disbandment of forces in the Tavildara zone, in order further to strengthen the cessation of military and other hostile acts.

The trust-building measures mentioned will be agreed on in the context of the [government-opposition] Joint [cease-fire observation] Commission, with the help of the UN Observers' Mission in Tajikistan, within 10 days of the signing of the aforementioned joint declaration, with particular emphasis on the absolute need to guarantee the safe and unhindered passage of economic goods and the civilian population along the Dushanbe-Khorog road.

3. The UN Observers' Mission in Tajikistan will, within three days of the signing of the joint declaration, position groups of its observers in the Tavildara zone on both sides of the conflict line. The UN military observers will swiftly check the veracity of the information received from the sides concerning their positions along the line of defense, and will be responsible for the impartiality and integrity of the observance of the terms of the Tehran Cease-Fire Agreement in this zone.

4. The sides guarantee the complete safety and freedom of movement of the members of the Joint Commission and the UN military observers, and promise to afford them full cooperation.

5. The Tajik Armed Forces and the armed formations of the opposition will de-mine and lift roadblocks on roads in their zones of control and guarantee the safe movement of economic goods, humanitarian aid, and civilians, including those returning to their homes [i.e., refugees and internally displaced people].

6. Direct radio contact is being set up in Tavildara District between UN military observers, the field commanders of the opposition armed formations, and the commanders of the subunits of the Tajik Armed Forces, with the aim of increasing control over the observance of the Tehran Agreement and the prevention of attempts at violating it. Lists of the relevant commanders are being presented to the UN Observers' Mission.

7. The Tajik delegation appeals to the special representative of the UN secretary general to accelerate the establishment of a communications point of the UN Observers' Mission in Tajikistan in the town of Taloqan [northern Afghanistan; headquarters of the exiled opposition] and other observation posts in the districts of the Islamic State of Afghanistan bordering Tajikistan, with the permission of the Afghan Government.

8. The UN military observers and the Joint Commission will investigate complaints from the sides about possible breaches of the Tehran Agreement, and will report on the results of investigations by the UN Observers' Mission in Tajikistan and by the sides.

9. The sides extend the Tehran Agreement until 31 December 1996.

Tajikistan: Foreign Minister Praises Cease-Fire Agreement

LD1907154696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1529 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat, July 19 (Interfax) — The agreement to end combat actions in Tajikistan on July 20 and observe the Tehran accord will help the Tajik Government and opposition make a move forward toward settling differences, Talbak Nazarov, Tajik foreign minister and government chief negotiator at talks with the opposition in the Turkmen capital of Ashgabat, told reporters on Friday.

The delegations of the Tajik Government and the Tajik opposition reached the agreement during the inter-Tajik talks in the Turkmen capital on July 19.

Nazarov said he considered the Friday statement signed by the conflicting sides as "very important," adding that "we see prospects for the settlement of problems, although our movement forward is slow."

Akbar Turadzhonzoda, Tajik opposition chief negotiator at talks with the government, emphasized the importance of the consultations with Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov on July 8-9.

"His meetings with the heads of the delegations inspire hope as far as Russia's part in the Tajik settlement is concerned," Turadzhonzoda said.

A protocol on the exchange of prisoners of war is expected to be signed in the next few days, he announced.

The joint statement signed by the Tajik Government and the Tajik opposition will come into effect on July 20 at noon local time.

The joint statement provides for ending combat actions and other hostilities in Tajikistan, especially in the Tavil-Dara region (200 kilometers east of the Tajik capital of Dushanbe) and on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Under the statement, the sides' armed forces will remain where they were on the day when the statement was signed.

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The sides' representatives will supply the mission of U.N. observers in Tajikistan with accurate information regarding the deployment of their armed formations along the line of engagement.

The government and opposition armed forces will clear mines, remove the blockade of roads and guarantee the safe transportation of civilians and civilian freight in the zones controlled by the government and opposition respectively.

The sides also confirmed their commitment to the Tehran cease-fire agreement signed some two years ago and extended it until December 31, 1996.

"The sprouts of confidence are weak, and they need care," Herd Merrem, a special envoy of the U.N. secretary-general, said with regard to the statement's signing.

"It is necessary not to slow down," he said.

Pauses between the rounds of talks need to be brief, he said.

The best guarantee of the cease-fire regime should be the people's confidence in the both delegations' capability of resolving existing problems, the U.N. envoy said, adding that priority should be given to the settlement of political and military problems.

Tajikistan: Rebels Doubt Durability of Cease-Fire Agreement

LD1907133396 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Tajik negotiating sides have announced that they have reached agreement on a new cease-fire. It was decided that the negotiating sides will sign a joint statement on this today.

The cease-fire agreement, which is the first achievement of the current round of Ashgabat talks, was (?achieved) as a result of pressure from the UN leadership and observer countries on the Dushanbe government. The Dushanbe government claimed earlier that it would sign the new cease-fire agreement only if the opposition forces withdrew from the center of Tavil-Dara District to the positions they held prior to 28 January [this year].

Thus, according to Professor Haji Akbar Turajonzodaas, first deputy leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan and head of the opposition negotiating delegation, the government side has relinquished the (?interests) of its own nation. Now it is agreed that the forces of the two sides will remain in the positions they occupy until tomorrow, that is, until the day the joint cease-fire agreement comes into effect.

According to experts, the probability of this agreement's holding is very weak.

Tajikistan: Government Accuses Rebels of Breaking Cease-Fire

LD2207113096 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1044 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dushanbe, 22 Jul — The Tajik Ministry of Defense has accused the armed opposition of breaking the cease-fire negotiated in Ashgabat.

A statement from the ministry's press office says that on the night of 21 to 22 July armed rebels broke the truce by attacking government positions in the area of Kalai and Khuseyn in Tavildarinskiy [Tavil-Dara] district, and in Tavil-Dara itself. Government troops sustained casualties. Government positions also came under opposition fire on 21 July.

The ministry's press office denied a statement made by an opposition leader, Turandzhonzoda, to the effect that a government helicopter was shot down on 20 July during fighting between government and rebel forces, and that the Defense Ministry lost 70 men killed. The press office did, however, confirm that fire had been directed at a government helicopter with markings identifying it as an air ambulance, which was delivering a humanitarian cargo to the area of Tavil-Dara. The helicopter was slightly damaged and landed safely at its destination, according to the ministry.

The press office statement also says that Tajik Government forces are at the positions they held at the time the cease-fire deal was signed, and are not planning any redeployments in or around Tavil-Dara. UN military observers departed for the area on 21 July to oversee the situation on the ground.

Tajikistan: Opposition Launches New Offensive in Tavil-Dara

LD2307093396 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0858 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, July 23 (Interfax) — The hardline Tajik opposition launched an offensive against government troops Tuesday in Tavil-Dara district, 200 kilometers to the east of Dushanbe, a source at the Tajik Defense Ministry told Interfax.

The same source said fighting is especially stubborn near Langar, Gurum and Gurhan.

Armed reinforcements, in particular Interior and Security Ministry units are being transferred to the area.

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Commenting on the situation, the source said the position of government troops is complicated by the mountainous terrain. "We cannot use armored vehicles or the artillery which reduces the efficiency of our actions," the officer said.

He said during the last month Tavil-Dara was alternately controlled by the army and opposition.

"Before the beginning of the talks in Ashgabat government units suffering great losses drove the enemy away from the controlling heights," the official said. According to his knowledge over 120 army servicemen were killed.

In the current clashes the conflicting sides are suffering heavy losses, he said.

In an earlier joint statement Tuesday the Defense, Security and Interior Ministries announced that the irreconcilable opposition opened fire at 4:00 a.m. local time at checkpoints in Langar, Gurham and Gurum.

They said the provocations continued despite the joint declaration of the government and opposition delegations on the termination of hostilities signed in Ashgabat.

The ministries resolutely protested against the provocations and called for an end to unlawful actions contradicting the spirit of the joint declaration.

Tajikistan: Rebels Criticize Russian Interference at Border Pass

LD2007100496 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] It is reported that a certain number of Russian forces have replaced the government servicemen at a post in Khoburabot pass of Darvoz District. These forces have launched this act of provocation in contravention of the agreement existing between Moscow and Dushanbe and also of international law within the country and on the border. The Tajik opposition leadership has condemned this provocation by the Russian military and has sent a letter of protest to Russian leaders concerning this.

This is not the first time that the Russian military has interfered in (?Tajik conflicts). The leadership of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan has warned the Russian side that if the Russian military do not stop their acts of provocation, hostilities are likely to spread further in Tajikistan, for which the Dushanbe regime and its Moscow protectors will bear the responsibility.

Tajikistan: Rebel Leader Sends Letter of Protest to Primakov

LD2007112696 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Tajikistan in Tajik 0600 GMT 20 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Professor Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition forces, sent a letter of protest to Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov a day ago expressing his concern over the transfer of Russian border troops from Kalai-Khumb [southeast of Tavil-Dara District in central Tajikistan] to Sagirdasht and the Khoburabot pass.

In his message, the Tajik opposition leader warned the Russian authorities that this transfer may cause bloody clashes to break out between forces of the Islamic Movement of Tajikistan's army and Russia in the aforementioned area. This will annihilate the Ashgabat mutual agreement. [passage omitted including indistinct passage].

Tajikistan: General Denies Border Guards Side With Tajik Army

LD2307110096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1021 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, July 23 (Interfax) — The Russian Border Service spokesman, Maj. Gen. Aleksandr Suvorov has flatly refuted allegations that Russian servicemen are fighting on the side of the government troops against the militants in Tajikistan.

He told an Interfax interviewer today that the presence of border guards is essential as "a reliable shield against terrorism, arms, and narcotics."

Russian border guards "do not meddle in the republic's internal affairs," general stressed, adding that U.N. observers in Tajikistan have repeatedly appreciated the Russian border guards' activity toward stability on the border with Afghanistan and in the entire region.

Tajikistan: Borderguards Concerned Over Buildup on Afghan Border

LD2107125696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 21 Jul 96

[By Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, July 21 (Itar-Tass) — Russian border guard commanders in Tajikistan have expressed serious concern over the escalation of tension on the Tajik-Afghan border.

In an urgent statement circulated today border guard commanders pointed out numerous facts showing that

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militants of the Islamic opposition are preparing for a large-scale breakthrough across the border in the Pyandzh, Moscow and Pamir directions.

According to border guard commanders, the leadership of the joint Tajik opposition is taking measures to build a reserve frontline in the Afghan border areas opposite the area controlled by the Pyandzh border guard unit. Small groups of the Islamic opposition were reported to step up their activities in the Shuroabad area. Tension was reported high in the area of contact of the Moscow and Kalaikhum border guard units. In the Kufabsk gorge, up in the Pamir highlands, a group numbering 500 is concentrated which is planning to break through the border in a number of Tajik-Afghan border areas in the direction of Pamir highlands.

The statement says that border guards have brought the situation under control and taken measures to prevent a breakthrough in the most hazardous directions by sending reinforcements there. In the opinion of border guard commanders, such measures will enable Russian and Tajik border guards assisted by Kazakh and Kyrgyz border guards to prevent the militants from breaking into the territory of the republic.

The Russian border guard commanders reiterated that all attempts made by armed militants to break through the border would be resolutely cut short in accordance with international agreements and will be regarded as an act of unilateral violation by the opposition of a ceasefire agreement signed in Ashkhabad on July 19 and which was elongated until December 31, 1996.

Russian border guards have also warned the Afghan military authorities of the inadmissibility of the use of the Afghan border areas by militants of the Islamic opposition to create their bases there to be subsequently used as strongholds for preparations for a breakthrough into Tajikistan.

Tajikistan: Police Launch Operation To Neutralize Bandit Groups

LD2007115896 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1119 GMT 20 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, July 20 (Interfax) — Five bandits were killed and one wounded in a clash with Tajik policemen, who were taking "preventive measures" outside the town of Teppaisamarkandi (12 kilometers north-east of Dushanbe) on Saturday, a source in Tajikistan's Interior Ministry told Interfax.

Two policemen were wounded, one of them seriously, in the fire exchange, he said.

The operation designed to block and neutralize bandit groups continues, he noted.

According to police sources, the bandit group is known to have attacked roadblock posts in the eastern suburb of Dushanbe, killed local officials, taken hostages and robbed local people.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: President Returns From 'Fruitful' Talks in Iran

LD2007105896 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 0700 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 18 Jul — Today, Turkmen President Saparmurad Turkmenbashy [Niyazov] returned from Iran to Ashgabat. He was met at the airport by the deputy chairman of parliament, the deputy prime minister, other ministers, and by representatives of public organizations and of the media.

It is known that Turkmenbashy was in the Islamic Republic of Iran between 15 and 18 July on an official visit at the special invitation of Islamic Republic of Iran ['Ali] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to discuss expanding economic cooperation, implementation of agreements reached earlier between the two states, and the strengthening of peace and stability in the region, along with a number of other issues of mutual interest.

Turkmenbashy was pleased to tell officials meeting him at Ashgabat airport that this visit to Iran was very fruitful.

"During the talks with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which started in Tehran and continued in the town of Ramsar, we discussed the progress made in implementing agreements reached earlier," Turkmenbashy said. "Both the Turkmen and Iranian sides expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the agreements and with the development of cooperation based on equality, mutual respect, and trust. Moreover, new areas were defined for the development of Turkmen-Iranian relations. On the whole, there is every reason to say that Turkmenistan and Iran have taken an important step toward expanding mutually advantageous cooperation and preserving peace and security in the region."

During the talks, the heads of the two countries focused their attention on the urgent need for a concerted effort to find a solution to the problems of the Caspian Sea and said there was a pressing need to speed up the establishment of an organization of Caspian Sea littoral states. The parties stressed the advisability of holding a meeting of foreign ministers to discuss this in Ashgabat soon and a preliminary meeting of experts at the deputy foreign minister level in Moscow or Tehran. They again confirmed that the international legal status of the Caspian Sea needed to be defined.

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Turkmenbashy and Hashemi-Rafsanjani described as extremely important regional and international cooperation to preserve peace and stability in the region and expressed their willingness to get third parties involved in tackling these issues, thus establishing tripartite links.

After opening new prospects for the further development of Turkmen-Iranian cooperation, the presidents of the two countries defined new trends in this area. In connection with this, experts on both sides were instructed to conduct the necessary consultations to find out whether the export of Turkmen gas to Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine along a new, alternative route via Iran was possible. The sides also agreed to set up a joint committee headed by the heads of the railways of the two countries aimed at making effective use of the Tedzhen-Sarakhs-Mashhad main line. The aim of such a committee is to remove any obstacles or barriers to the use of the railway line, which is of major importance to the world. It will also draw up a precise timetable for the movement of freight and passenger trains.

The Turkmen and Iranian heads of state discussed a number of other issues of mutual interest. Judging by the atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding in which the talks were conducted, one can conclude that the friendly relations between the two neighbors have been strengthened further. It is also worth noting that the developing Turkmen-Iranian relations are based on good neighborliness and are mutually advantageous. Turkmenbashy again proved convincingly that strengthening and developing relations in every way possible with its close southern neighbor — the Islamic Republic of Iran — is a priority of his foreign policy. This visit also showed that the level of trust and mutual understanding between the leaders of the two nations — Turkmenbashy and Hashemi- Rafsanjani — was increasing. This factor undoubtedly has a positive impact on the fast pace of cooperation between the two countries.

In a word, one can say without doubt that the official visit by Turkmenbashy to the Islamic Republic of Iran between 15 and 18 July this year was fruitful. This is evident in the joint communique signed as a result of the visit.

During a conversation in the town of Ramsar on the Caspian coast, both leaders devoted some of their working hours to discussing ways of settling the status of the Caspian Sea, of establishing conditions under which all the littoral states would have an equal chance of exploiting its biological and mineral resources, and which would make it possible not only to preserve this unique natural water reservoir, but also to create an atmosphere of peace, friendship, and confidence in the Caspian Sea area. Both presidents hailed the initiative to hold a conference in Ashgabat of the foreign ministers of the Caspian Sea littoral states as soon as possible in order to prepare all the necessary documents and to create favorable conditions for a Caspian summit.

The results of this Turkmen-Iranian summit show that the mutually advantageous partnership between Turkmenistan and Iran on equal terms is irreversible and developing consistently.

Turkmenistan: Ashgabat Talks on Tajik Issue Produce Cease-Fire Agreement

LD2207105596 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0500 GMT 22 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The fifth round of Tajik talks has ended in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. The Tajik government delegation, led by Foreign Minister Talbak Nazarov and the head of the opposition [delegation and first deputy leader of the United Tajik Opposition] Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, signed a joint statement declaring a cease-fire and observance of the Tehran Agreement.

After signing the statement, Nazarov told a KHOVAR News Agency correspondent that preparation of the statement had not been easy and that their working group had made a considerable contribution to its preparation.

For our part we will make every effort to simplify the settlement of this problem and make concessions when they are needed. We are pleased that this important document has been signed. The task of the two sides is now to observe its provisions because the Tehran Agreement has been signed several times and, unfortunately, its terms have not always been observed, leading to the latest clashes in Tajikistan [said Nazarov].

We must not blame anyone today. The two sides must now strictly observe the provisions of this agreement.

I wish the people of Tajikistan those most valuable things, peace and tranquillity. Every Tajik person is to make every effort to establish a lasting peace. Enough of war and clashes.

I think the signing of the document was a firm step by our working group, which will lay the foundations for signing other important documents in Ashkhabad, Talbak Nazarov said in conclusion.

The Tajik government delegation will return to Dushanbe today.

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Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Clinton Criticized for Meeting With Uzbekistan's Karimov

MM2307090596 Moscow EKSPRESS-KHRONIKA in Russian 19 Jul 96 p 1

[Article by Khazratkul Khudayberdiyev: "U.S. President Backed Communist Regime" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sweden — Fully aware of the responsibility for what I say, I declare that U.S. President Bill Clinton, by welcoming Uzbekistan's dictator Islam Karimov at the White House and praising his policies, has betrayed the ideals of universal human values, justice, humanitarianism, and human rights. It is greatly to be regretted that leaders of democratic states are gradually becoming increasingly callous, heartless, and indifferent toward the sufferings of other peoples.

Until 25 June 1966 I believed Bill Clinton to be a democrat. Today I am convinced that I was wrong. No importance apparently attaches to the fact that he comes from a nation which respects and recognizes democratic values, that he was a member of the Democratic Party and now represents the interests of a democratic state. People are judged by their actions.

Clinton not only received the dictator, he actually praised him. Why? The President's praise is a mockery of the more than 2,000 starving children whose fathers either are in the jails and camps of Karimov's regime or have been dismissed from their jobs. It is a mockery of the unfortunate old people whose children languish in the Ministry of Internal Affairs and National Security Service dungeons. It is a mockery of the relatives and friends of opposition leaders who have "vanished" on Karimov's orders. I spoke about this in an interview with the Swedish newspaper NSD while Karimov's visit to America was being planned. (A copy of the newspaper item and a translation of the interview in English were forwarded to the U.S. Department of State.) In this interview I warned against a possible diplomatic mistake when considering the question of Karimov's reception in the White House.

A letter from leaders and activists of Uzbekistan's democratic opposition was also sent to the U.S. President. These people and their existence in forced exile offer yet more proof of the cruelty of Karimov's regime. In that letter we revealed the true state of affairs regarding human rights in Uzbekistan. The letter was sent to the Department of State 28 June. But all efforts were in vain.

The President preferred to heed the arguments adduced by spokesmen of the economic lobby, whose narrow interests are limited to profits alone. Immediately following his meeting with Clinton, Karimov signed a $400-million contract with an oil company.

Back in 1992 the Russian authorities, by supporting the regime in Tajikistan, contributed to the start of a civil war which is raging to this day. Now the U.S. authorities, in the person of the country's President, are taking up the baton of support for communist authorities, this time in Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

Uzbekistan: President Hails Uzbek-ROK Automobile Plant

LD2007164996 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 20 Jul 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] As a result of the economic reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan thanks to gaining independence, a major modern car plant — the Uzbek-South-Korean joint venture UzDAEWOOavto — has been built extremely rapidly in Andizhan region. The international launch of the new joint venture took place in Asaka on 19 July. [passage omitted]

To friendly applause from those present, [President] Islam Karimov presented Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-dzhun with the Dustlik [Friendship] order and Li Kwan-ki, president of Daewoo and chairman of the UzDAEWOOavto company, with the Shukhrat [Glory] medal. He also presented other citizens of the Republic of South Korea with certificates of honor of the Republic of Uzbekistan. [passage omitted]

"The commissioning of the project is an event of great significance", said Islam Karimov, addressing participants in the news conference. The plant, equipped with a sophisticated automated production line and equipment, and with competitive technology producing two models of cars and a minibus, has been built in Uzbekistan within two and half years, including the time spent on organizational work. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question put by a Korean correspondent as to why the Daewoo corporation in particular had been chosen as a partner, Islam Karimov said that the Republic of Korea was among the first 10 most developed countries in the world. It was above all the developed industry of your country that interested us, he said, and Uzbekistan is rich in natural resources. Excellent results may be achieved by combining these two potentials. Moreover, there was no need to "study the special features" of the Korean mentality, for we have been living as members of one family with representatives of this nation in our country for a long time. This probably served as a decisive factor in developing our economic relations with the Republic of Korea. [passage omitted]

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Uzbekistan: President Calls Opening of Daewoo Car Plant 'Historic Event'

LD1907110296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1012 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TASHKENT, July 19 (Interfax) — The commissioning of the first car plant built in Uzbekistan in cooperation with the South Korean Daewoo company is a historic event for Uzbekistan, Uzbek President Islam Karimov said Friday at the plant's opening ceremony.

"This plant is an example of our cooperation with foreign partners," he said.

The car plant in the town of Asaka, the Uzbek Andizhan region, was built on the basis of a former tractor trailer factory within 18 months. It has modern Japanese, South Korean and German equipment and an annual capacity of 200,000 cars. The plant will make cars of three types: Neksia medium-class vehicles, Tiko small cars and Damas vans.

The plant will reach its full capacity by 2002. This year it will produce 30,000 cars, half of which are to be sold by Daewoo.

The overall cost of the plant construction reached $660 million. Direct investments of Daewoo exceeded $260 million.

The opening ceremony was attended by South Korean Minister for Political Affairs (I) Kim Taek-lin and Chairman of the Daewoo corporation Kim Woo-chong.

Karimov and the South Koreans visited the plant's workshops and tested a Neksia car on the plant's track.

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Armenia

Armenia: Foreign Minister, Russian Counterpart View Ties, Karabakh

NC1907141796 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 1300 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("AZG" daily), 07/19/96 — ROA [Republic of Armenia] Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan met with his Russian counterpart Yevgeniy Primakov in the Armenian Embassy in Moscow on 18 July. The sides discussed the current state of Armenia-Russia relations in political, trade-economic, and other spheres. The sides have also touched upon the problem of peaceful resolution of the problem of Mountainous Karabakh and obstacles which hinder the negotiations. The two ministers also discussed problems related with Armenian property on the territory of Russian Federation. Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov and ROA Ambassador in Russia Yuri Mkrtumyan participated in the meeting.

Armenia: President Ter-Petrosyan Receives Russian Border Troops Commander

NC1907203696 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received Lieutenant-General Vladimir Ruzliayev, commander of the special Caucasian military border district. The latter introduced his deputy Colonel (Yevgeniy Kochakov), who was recently appointed as commander of the Russian border troops in Armenia, to the Armenian president.

President Ter-Petrosyan congratulated (Kochakov) on his appointment and wished him success in his office.

Major-General Mikayel Hovhannesyan, former commander of the military unit [Russian border troops in Armenia]; Armenian National Security Minister Serzh Sargisyan; and Major-General Levon Stepanyan, commander of the Armenian border troops, also attended the meeting during which matters relating to the joint protection of the CIS borders and the current situation prevailing on the borders were discussed.

Armenia: Azerbaijan's Reaction to Appointment of Shusa Governor Viewed

NC2207181596 Yerevan SNARK in English 1603 GMT 21 Jul96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan-Stepanakert, July 22 (SNARK) — The head of the Armenian Foreign Ministry's Press Office puzzled today over a statement by the Azeri Foreign Ministry which blamed Armenia for appointing Arshavir Karamyan as leader of the Shusha region in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Yerevan never has interfered into internal affairs of Nagorno-Karabakh, he told SNARK's reporter.

NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic] President's Press Secretary Aleksandr Grigoryan commenting on the Azeri Ministry's statement at SNARK's request advised to take it easy.

Firstly, Stepanakert gave no rights to Armenia to appoint any leaders in Karabakh. Secondly, Arshavir Karamyan has been the fourth head of the Shusha administration appointed by the NKR Government since May of 1992. Therefore it is unclear why the Azeri Foreign Ministry reacted to Karamian's appointment in such a strange manner, the Press Secretary said adding that a similar statement was made by Turkish Foreign Ministry on July 17.

Armenia: Foreign Minister Calls For Promotion of Ties With Japan

NC2207181996 Yerevan SNARK in English 1603 GMT 21 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan, July 22 (SNARK) — In a meeting with Japan's delegation which is paying an official visit to Yerevan, Vahan Papazyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated that Armenia's leaders will do their utmost to promote the implementation of programs aimed at developing bilateral Armenia-Japan ties. The delegation is headed by Rio Takaji, Deputy Director of Japanese Foreign Ministry's Department for Developing Economic Cooperation [name and title as received].

The Press Office of Armenia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs informed SNARK that the main goal of the visit is to draft programs on economic cooperation between Japan and Armenia within the framework of Japan's Overseas Development Administration.

Today's meeting discussed the issues of extending and activating Armeno-Japanese ties. At the delegation's request, the Armenian Minister described the position of Armenian authorities on ways of Karabakh conflict solution as well as Armenia's relations with neighboring countries.

Armenia: Fuel Needs Behind Decision To Bolster Ties With Iran

LD1807184296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1802 GMT 18 Jul 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No 136 (1129)]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Armenia is determined to step up relations with Iran in all fields, a source in the

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Armenian government has said on the condition of anonymity.

In response to Interfax's request he agreed to comment on the current state of Armenian-Iranian relations in view of the First Iranian Vice-President Hasan Habibi's visit to Armenia, scheduled for September.

The source said there was no alternative to stronger ties with Tehran due to the fuel and energy dependence of Armenia and the transport blockade.

"Already know we fear that Iranian supplies of liquified gas may reduce," the source said. He hopes that the problem will be eased if the Iranian proposal is accepted for building liquified gas shortages in Armenia, the more so, since Iran is prepared to invest into that project.

The source said that the bridge across the border river Araks, commissioned last year, literally saved Armenia from commodity shortages.

The Armenian government official said Armenia would eventually benefit from Teheran's proposal for laying a high voltage power line from Iran to Georgia across Armenia. He said that was precisely the type of project the Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan had in mind when he mentioned the benefits of multi-lateral regional cooperation.

About the foreign aspects of bilateral relations the source said that Yerevan appreciated Teheran's neutrality in the Karabakh conflict. Apart from that "in contrast to some of our neighbors Iran has responded quite calmly to our growing ties with Russia in the defense field."

In general the Iranian vice-president's visit to Armenia would be held against a "more than reliable background."

Armenia: Defense Ministry Reports Border Areas Shelled From Azerbaijan

LD2307054396 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0040 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Armenian Defense Ministry says that some areas near the country's northeastern border have been shelled from Azerbaijan. No incidents have been recorded thus far in other sectors of the Armenian-Azerbaijani border.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan: Prime Minister's Dismissal Seen as 'Inevitable'

LD1907171496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1623 GMT 19 Jul 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Geydar Aliyev is dissatisfied with the performance of the Cabinet of Ministers.

"The operation of the government has not been organized properly to this day," Aliyev told an enlarged session of the Cabinet. He recalled he had to convene the Cabinet of Ministers a third time this year to look into why it had failed to act on his instructions and decrees to improve the system of economic management and reorganize the system of government.

(The previous sessions of the Cabinet with Aliyev's participation took place on January 8 and June 29. - IF).

President Aliyev said he was dissatisfied with the economic results of the first six months. He criticized the government for slow progress in restructuring the economy and the pace of privatization, which, he said was still not very high.

"The Cabinet of Ministers had failed to meet the targets set at the government's session on January 8," Aliyev said.

He believes that the Cabinet members, including Prime Minister Fuat Guliyev, should have displayed greater consistency and energy in reorganizing the management of the economy.

"The government is still ineffective and nothing has been done to straighten things out to this day," Aliyev said.

He blamed Prime Minister Guliyev personally for the "unsatisfactory state of affairs."

Sources in the presidential staff have said that Aliyev more than once entered into argument with the heads of ministries and other government agencies, who reported the work done over the past six months.

Aliyev said that the management machinery should have been organized first thing. "In the Cabinet there are 20 departments and many of them are redundant," he said.

Aliyev recalled that the first time he brought up the question of reorganization was back in the August of 1944.

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"How come nothing has been done so far?" Aliyev complained.

"The structure of management has remained unchanged since the early 80s," Aliyev said.

He made it quite clear that he did not accept Guliyev's references to the lack of discipline as an excuse for the mistakes made.

"If the prime minister fails to act on presidential instructions and keep an eye on the way they are implemented, how can we expect discipline of all other members of the Cabinet?" Aliyev said.

In response to Guliyev's remark about growing stabilization in the economy Aliyev asked him to avoid putting the discussion on a different track. IF Note: In his statement Guliyev promised that oil contracts would raise $14 billion of foreign investments into Azerbaijan within the next few years to come. The money would be used to fight crises in various industries.

Guliyev said that international financial institutions had already extended more than $320 million in assistance to Azerbaijan. The International Monetary Fund provided 166 million, the World Bank, 131 million, and the European Bank, 23 million. Guliyev said that Azerbaijan hoped to receive $190 million in favorable loans from the World Bank and Islamic Bank.

Guliyev said that this year production in the oil, timber and wood-working industries started growing for the first time after a prolonged recession. Guliyev said trade in Azerbaijan had grown by 16 percent, and services, by 18 percent this year as compared with the same indices last year.

Sources in the government speculate, however, that Guliyev's dismissal is inevitable. They believe this may happen already after this conference.

Some say that Guliyev may be given a diplomatic post abroad and Deputy Prime Minister Artur Rasizade [name as received], appointed several months ago, made acting prime minister.

The sources do not rule out that after the conference a number of deputy prime ministers will be dismissed and the Cabinet's technical staff slashed.

Azerbaijan: President Aliyev Accepts Prime Minister's Resignation

LD1907174996 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, July 19 (Interfax) — Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev has accepted the resignation offered by Prime Minister Fuat Guliyev.

The president announced the decision to accept Guliyev's resignation during the expanded session of the Azerbaijani Cabinet of Ministers in Baku on July 19, the governmental press service told Interfax.

Guliyev has requested the president let him go because of health problems, a representative of the Azerbaijani governmental press service said, adding that the president decided that "this request needs to be met."

No successor to Kuliyev has so far been named.

Under the president's decision, another eight ministers and heads of departments have been sacked "for serious drawbacks in their activity and corruption," the governmental press service said.

The eight sacked officials include Director of the Azerbaijani Railroad Department Vagif Nadirli, Director of the Oil Machine-Building production company Rovshan Ismailov and Azerbaijani Road Transport Minister Tofig Aslanov, the same source said.

Chairman of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Association Akhmed Zade has been sacked "for stealing foreign humanitarian aid" intended for Azerbaijani refugees.

Samed Sadykov, Azerbaijani deputy prime minister and economics minister, has also been dismissed.

President of the State Oil Company of the Azerbaijani Republic Natig Aliyev and President of the Azerigaz gas concern Tariel Guseinov have received serious reprimands.

Azerbaijani Finance Minister Fikret Yusipov has also been reprimanded.

Azerbaijan: President Aliyev Appoints Rasizade as Acting Prime Minister

LD2007151096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1410 GMT 20 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, July 20 (Interfax) — First Deputy Prime Minister Artur Rasizade will be acting head of the Azerbaijani cabinet, an informed source in the government of Azerbaijan told Interfax Saturday [20 July].

Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Fuad Guliyev Friday.

According to the source, Rasizade is currently preparing to take over as acting prime minister and is studying the situation in the government.

He is to submit his proposals on how to reorganize the cabinet and make it more efficient to Aliyev by July 28, said the source.

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Rasizade was Azerbaijani government official, including deputy prime minister, back in the Soviet times. He was dismissed in the late 1980s and carried out scientific work. Aliyev appointed Rasizade first deputy prime minister in early 1996.

Azerbaijan: President Aliyev Calls For 'Fundamental Reform,' Privatization

LD2107052596 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0100 GMT 21 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The next few years will be years of growth in Azerbaijan's economy, President Geydar Aliyev said at an expanded meeting of the republic's cabinet of ministers in Baku. A strong foundation for growth has been laid by the signing of three oil contracts with foreign companies, worth about $15 billion in total.

According to the Azerbaijani president, the main task now is to achieve serious changes in the country's economy through fundamental reform. Among the main priorities, Geydar Aliyev listed the need to develop the private sector through privatization.

On corruption in the managerial apparatus, Aliyev stressed that he has been fighting this evil all his life and will continue to do so.

Azerbaijan: Aliyev Reportedly Accuses SOCAR Chief of Embezzlement

NC1907140396 Baku TURAN in English 1300 GMT 19 Jul 96

[Figures as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku/19.07.96/TURAN— Today enlarged session of the Cabinet of Ministers with participation of President Aliyev continued in Baku.

President of SOCAR [State Oil Company of Azerbaijan], Natig Aliyev, has made report during the session. He said over 6 months, 1996 SOCAR has produced 4,544,900 tons of oil. 4,311,000 tons of them have been refined. SOCAR's Department for Foreign Economic Relations has sold oil products standing at $126.5 million to abroad. $110 million of them have been remitted to the account of the Government, $8.5 million to the account of Kaspmorneftefiot and the remaining sum — $7.5 million — has been remitted to the account of SOCAR. "This sum is not enough to resolvement of social problems of SOCAR. Lack of resources did not allow us to give salary to oilmen for May-June, 1996", Natig Aliyev said. He said 90 percent of refined oil is sold at the domestic market, however proceeds from sale are not remitted to the accounts of SOCAR. As at July 1, 1996 debt of State Fuel Committee to SOCAR totalled 2 trillion 255 million manat or $256 million, Aliyev said.

If 10 years ago annual investment in oil industry of Azerbaijan totalled $250 million, in 1994 this figure totalled $31.8 million and in 1995 — $33.7 million, SOCAR's President noted.

Natig Aliyev stressed all foreign trade operations of SOCAR are under the control of SOCAR's Council, which is under the control of vice-president, Ilham Aliyev.

SOCAR's President admitted that there are shortages in fields of refining and transportation of oil. He said since 1994 number of SOCAR's employees has dropped by 8,000 people and at present 74,120 people work in the state company.

President Aliyev has interrupted report of SOCAR's President and accused him of embezzlement of oil products, bad organization of foreign market of trade and insubordination of several oil-refineries to SOCAR. President Aliyev said oil products delivered to the domestic market are being embezzled. As an example President Aliyev called one illegal barter transaction totalling $10 million. Azeri President has severely criticized charitable activities of SOCAR, which has spent $1.5 million for these purposes for the past two years. "Until now you have not realized the responsibility of the President, who heads the largest production complex of Azerbaijan", President Aliyev noted.

Azerbaijan: Foreign Minister Condemns Armenian Move in Karabakh

LD2207175296 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1550 GMT 22 Jul 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, July 22 (Interfax) - Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister condemned Armenia's actions "on legitimizing the regime created in the Nagorno-Karabakh region."

In line with the Foreign Ministry's statement distributed in Baku last week-end, "Baku assesses appointment of a certain Karamian head of the Shusha region (in Nagorno Karabakh) as the most cruel violation of principles of the UN and OSCE."

Such actions, according to the ministry, may negatively affect the process of the Karabakh settlement.

Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov expressed concern to heads of Russian, French, American, German and Turkish diplomatic missions accredited in the republic due to the actions of the Armenian party and expressed hope that member-states of the OSCE

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Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh will resolutely condemn these provocative actions, the statement says.

"Simultaneously Azerbaijan highly estimated the statement of the Turkish Foreign Minister dated July 17 which resolutely condemns actions of the Armenian party," the document says.

The statement also says that Azerbaijan's Foreign Ministry has forwarded a note of protest to the French Embassy due to issuance of passports for the self-proclaimed Nagorno Karabakh republic by one of the French companies. The note of protest expresses hope that the French authorities will prevent actions "inflicting damage to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Azerbaijani Republic."

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze on Economy, Ties With Russia

LD2207141396 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0525 GMT 22 Jul 96

[Interview with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze by Nato Oniani in Tbilisi — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] Good morning. Here is a radio interview with the Georgian president, Eduard Shevardnadze.

Mr. President, let us start today's interview with last week's review of the economy. The main event was the expanded meeting of the government on 20 July, which examined and summed up the results of the first six months of the year. [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] Thank you. Good morning. I would like to mention some other meetings before discussing this main subject. It was a busy, eventful, and fruitful week in the country's economic life as regards both internal developments and meetings at the international level.

The importance of the visit to Georgia by Lynn Davis, U.S. under secretary of state, was not limited to NATO's Partnership for Peace Program and the political aspects of cooperation. Speedy settlement of conflicts in the Caucasus, including the Abkhaz conflict, is in the economic interests of the United States, as well as many other countries of the world and international organizations.

Among the countries wishing to be Georgia's partners in the implementation of the Eurasian corridor project, Russia has a special role and place. This has become especially noticeable recently. The existence of old and close economic ties with this huge country in almost every sphere facilitates the implementation of any joint project and makes it more realistic.

The leadership of the Kometa central association of the Russian Federation Defense and Industry Committee and the Kosmos-5 international association have drawn up a joint project under which Georgia and Russia will offer countries of the Black Sea basin and other states with an interest in the Eurasian corridor, the creation of a modern communications system using the most advanced technology in space communications. This will ensure communication of the highest standard with all transport operating in the corridor. Their [the Russians'] partner is the [Georgian] space equipment institute, which we have recently visited and saw that its work meets the highest international standards.

Apart from that, a gas pipeline of a very large capacity will be built between Russia and Turkey. This project is now being drawn up, as are some other projects. Therefore, goods will move in the Caucasus corridor, not only from west to east and back, but also from north to south.

Among the mutually advantageous prospects stemming from cooperation with the Chevron Overseas Petroleum Company, a rather important role can be played by the proposals of the company president, Richard Matzke, concerning the development of cooperation with Azerbaijan and Georgia in freight, oil, shipment of oil and other goods and minerals, such as sulphur from Kazakhstan to the West.

The visit by a joint delegation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry international cooperation agency [as heard] and foreign economic cooperation foundation [as heard] was aimed at studying the possibility of establishing close economic ties with Georgia. It was a very important delegation. The visitors noted our achievements and showed interest in the activities of donors in Georgia and in the country's industrial and economic potential. Among the issues discussed were technical assistance, upgrading equipment at enterprises, and production of quality goods. This will be the foundation that will determine the guidelines of future relations. The recent increase in the frequency of visits by Japanese delegations can lead to the establishment and development of mutually beneficial ties between the two countries.

In the wide range of events in the domestic economy last week the most important one was, as you said, the expanded meeting of the government. The meeting examined the results of the first six months of 1996 and issues concerning the smooth operation of the economy in the rest of the year and fulfillment of the state budget. The results of the meeting were covered extensively by the media. I will just say briefly that the implementation of the tasks set by the presidential and ESAF [IMF's Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility]

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programs is proceeding successfully. For example, in the first six months GDP grew by 16.6 percent instead of the forecast 8 percent. Output growth was observed in all sectors of the national economy.

From the point of view of creating a new economic environment, the results of the development of small businesses and their performance are especially noteworthy. Thousands of small and medium-size enterprises have emerged on the economic map of Georgia. This is a qualitatively new feature in our life. [passage omitted]

Instead of the forecast monthly inflation rate of 3 percent, average monthly inflation in the first six months was only 1.9 percent, while in June it was 0.5 percent. If we manage to retain this level, it will be very important to people from the point of view of their social welfare.

Among the important results of the first six months in the sphere of ownership transition, one should especially note the successful completion of mass privatization, reorganization of the state bread industry, and the political decisions on restructuring the electricity sector.

The long process of deterioration of people's living standards was halted in the first six months. Moreover, promising signs of improvement, albeit still very modest and perhaps negligible, were observed in this area. [passage omitted]

[Oniano] You told the government meeting that we should make a choice between the civil service and private business and gave several examples of government officials having a stake in certain enterprises and conducting their activity secretly. [passage omitted] The information presented by the Prosecutor's Office was really alarming. You said that it was only the tip of the iceberg and that if we seriously wanted to tackle corruption, we must start with the upper echelons, including — I am quoting you — the president's office, the State Chancellery and parliament. [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] The government meeting discussed issues of strengthening law and order in the country. [passage omitted] In one or two years, in a year and a half, to be more precise, the state has done the impossible. Illegal armed units and gangs of murderers, [illegible]orists, and racketeers have been finally eliminated. [illegible] a be said that citizens of Georgia now enjoy reliable protection. I promise our people that law and order will be strengthened further. [passage omitted]

Measures to be taken at interstate and state level against organized crime are now at the top of the agenda. A lot of concern has been expressed about the fact that professional terrorists and murderers find safe haven in foreign states. It is more than just a handful of cases. This especially concerns the people who organized the terrorist act of 29 August [the 1995 assassination attempt on Shevardnadze]. You will guess which country I am talking about. I can say confidently that there is not a single such individual on Georgian territory. Naturally, we expect the same of our neighbors and partners, I mean, foreign states.

Speaking about corruption, we must bear in mind that corruption will not take root in a country in which the upper echelons of state power are not affected by this disease and neither are the structures that are responsible for the fight against corruption. If they are corrupt, then it is a very complex situation. The new system of government enshrined in the Georgian Constitution provides a unique opportunity to prevent corruption taking a foothold and thriving. [one-minute break in reception]

Now, as regards the problem of so-called business interests, I believe that we should continue inviting businessmen to the government. These people have experience of business operations, have a knowledge of business and how important the development of business is for the future of the country. However, we must urgently draw up legislation that will determine their involvement with business. In general, combining private business — no matter what kind of business it is — with state activity is unimaginable. If a businessman joins the civil service, his [business] accounts should be frozen and he should not even be able to find out about the state of his investment.

[Oniano] And, as you said at the meeting, information on (?government members') incomes should be available to the public.

[Shevardnadze] Absolutely, it should be available and declared. This includes income from abroad. I myself set the best example I could. I am not a very rich man, but my book which was published in more than 20 countries gave me a lot of income — for me, in any case, it was a lot. I declared this income to the tax authorities and paid as much as from 140,000 to 150,000 German marks in tax. I did not conceal this income, and I am now honest in the eyes of the state. I am probably not the only one, and others would have done the same, but I know that many citizens have deposited large amounts in foreign banks. I urge everyone to follow my example. [passage omitted]

[Oniano] The head of the Shida Kartli [provincial] administration [Badri Khatidze] presented the expanded meeting of the government with rather promising information concerning Georgian-Ossetian relations. I avoid using the word conflict. You have mentioned the possibility of a meeting in Vladikavkaz.

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The National Security Council met last week to discuss the settlement of the Abkhaz conflict. This is also the subject of quadripartite talks in Moscow.

[Shevardnadze] I would like to start with the Abkhaz conflict. As you said, intensive talks are going on in Moscow under Russian mediation and UN involvement. One of the subjects of the talks is the mandate of the peacekeeping forces. As is known, it has already expired, and the results of the Moscow talks will determine our decision whether or not to extend the mandate.

Of course, the return of refugees and determination of Abkhazia's political status are still the main questions. We have made our position clear to everyone. It has been recognized internationally that the draft status proposed by Georgia meets the highest standards, international standards. Our draft must be acceptable to Russia as well. I have singled out Russia because it is the main mediator. A lot depends on its position, and it can be said that its position is often crucial. It would be fair to say that we will agree to the standards which Russia will use in determining the status of Chechnya or its other regions. That is why everyone should realize that the status that will be given to Abkhazia may be a model for other regions, and what is unacceptable to Georgia will also be unacceptable to Russia.

If the talks are deadlocked once more, we will, of course, be forced to demand full implementation of the decision of the meeting of CIS leaders on 19 January — you will remember what an important and harsh decision it was — and to resort to some other measures to end the plight of 300,000 refugees and restore the country's territorial integrity.

As regards the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, you mentioned the address by Badri Khatidze [presidential representative in Shida Kartli Province, which includes South Ossetia], who is doing quite a lot, and so is Tedo Isakadze [presidential representative in Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo Svaneti Province]. Many important things have happened, things that could not have been achieved at any process of political negotiation. This concerns relations between individuals, citizens, and ties between relatives. The process of reconciliation has acquired an almost irreversible nature.

As you said, a meeting of the monitoring commission will be held in Vladikavkaz in the next few days. I am sure that it will be another step forward. The delegations will agree to the date, place, and format of my possible meeting with Lyudvig Chibirov [South Ossetian leader].

I would like to stress once more the extremely positive role played by the Russian peacekeeping forces in this region. This was largely determined by the clever and clear-cut position of their commander, General Merkuryev. He has very good relations with both Ossetians and Georgians, and within a short time he has made an important contribution to speeding up the process of reconciliation between the two peoples.

It is very unfortunate that the same cannot be said about the peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia, especially those deployed on the Georgian bank of the Inguri. We have criticized them many times. I have also said this many times to Russia's leadership. However, the situation has not changed. The population is concerned, and, unfortunately, almost every speaker at a recent large rally in Zugdidi mentioned it.

[Oniano] At the government meeting, you also discussed the protection of Georgia's borders, in particular the border near Akhaltsikhe [southern Georgian town] and the North Caucasus border [words indistinct] in Khevsureti [northern Georgian region], where, for some reason, Russian border guards have appeared without prior agreement with the Georgian authorities, as far as we know.

[Shevardnadze] There were very critical addresses concerning this question at both the first and second government meetings. In particular, Gigla Baramidze [name as heard] discussed it and so did other speakers. This problem prompted heated debate. The situation on Georgia's borders, particularly the situation at the Akhaltsikhe customs house will become the subject of special examination and debate. Border guards, whether Georgian or Russian, must not carry out the duties of customs officers.

[Oniano] You mean, searching goods and so on?

[Shevardnadze] Exactly. That is amazing. The anxiety expressed at the republic-wide [government] meeting is not without foundation. But let us wait for the [Georgian National] Security Council to meet for a special debate on this question. However, in general, providing everything that was said [at the government meeting] corresponds to reality, I would like to express well-founded anxiety about it. This is unacceptable to an independent country. [passage omitted]

Georgia: Russian Defense Minister Favors Good Relations With Georgia

LD2107184696 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1825 GMT 21 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, July 21 (Interfax) — New Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov has spoken for good cooperation with Georgia.

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According to the Georgian news agency Sakinform, he made the statement in a telephone conversation with the Georgian ambassador to Russian Vazha Lordkipanidze.

Rodionov agreed with the opinion of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze that his ministry should follow the course for which the nation voted in the July 3 presidential elections and which fully meets the interests of Georgia.

Gen. Rodionov was the commander of the Transcaucasian military district when Soviet army units used force to disperse a demonstration for Georgian independence in Tbilisi on April 9, 1989. Opponents to his appointment as defense minister, in particular from the Democratic Russia movement, said it could worsen relations with Georgia.

Georgia: Russia Rejects Call For Troops Policing Role in Abkhazia

LD2007133596 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1200 GMT 20 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 20 Jul — An IBERIA correspondent reports that at the current quadripartite consultations in Moscow, Russia has finally rejected Georgia's proposal that the Russian troops deployed in Abkhazia be given policing functions. The pretext for the refusal is that this would lead to discontent in the North Caucasus; in addition, the Abkhaz side is categorically opposed to Georgia's proposal.

Georgia: Future of Russian Peackeeping Mission in Abkhazia in Doubt

LD1907185896 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 19 Jul 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A new crisis is arising in the Transcaucasus. The term of residence of the Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia expired today. A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has said that the troops are continuing to carry out their duties for the duration, but the Georgian Government is taking a tough line: Either the troops leave or their duties change radically.

[Vakhtang Abashidze, presidential press secretary] I will say this directly. The issue of withdrawing or rather, on the contrary, extending the mandate of the peacekeeping forces is not on the agenda in Georgia today. [end recording]

[Unidentified correspondent] Vakhtang Abashidze, the press secretary of the Georgian president, reported this, the view of the Tbilisi authorities, to journalists on the occasion of the expiry of the term of residence of Russia's peacekeeping forces in the zone of the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia. At the same time, it was said that Georgia was ready to renew the peacekeepers' mandate if they extended their duties to the whole territory of Abkhazia, after guaranteeing the safe return of refugees. The latter will require, among other things, clearing mines from the territory and eliminating Abkhaz fighters' fortifications.

Refugees from Abkhazia are more categorical in their demands. At a rally today they demanded the unconditional withdrawal of Russian peacekeeping forces from the conflict zone. They explained their position on the problem like this.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] We will find a common language with Abkhazi, local inhabitants, Russians, Tatars, and others by ourselves. Do not [words indistinct]. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The refugee rally adopted a resolution compelling the parliament to hold an emergency session and pass a resolution on the immediate withdrawal of Russian peacekeepers from Abkhazia and the president and government to ensure these decisions are implemented. Rallies in other Georgian towns heard the same demands and everywhere the demonstrators warned the authorities that they will resort to radical measures if their demands were not met, starting on 27 September, the anniversary of the fall of Sukhumi. In the opinion of the refugees, the Russian peacekeepers should be replaced by Georgian soldiers who, in their opinion, are getting ready in earnest to march west.

Georgia: President Praises Moscow Talks on Georgian-Abkhaz Conflict

LD2107123896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1108 GMT 21 Jul 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tengiz Pachkoria]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi, 21 Jul — "The quadripartite consultations taking place in Moscow are in the nature of being a serious dialogue on ways to settle the conflict in Abkhazia." This was stated here by Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze. He stressed that Russia, the United Nations, other international organizations, and the heads of a number of North Caucasus regions and republics have played a great role in achieving progress.

According to the president, this year will be decisive in the process of settling the Abkhaz problem.

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Georgia: Compromise Accord Reached on CIS Peacekeepers in Abkhazia

LD2207150996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1333 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Irina Shchegoleva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — Georgia and its breakaway region of Abkhazia agreed to a compromise over the mandate of CIS peacekeeping troops in the region.

Both sides reached a tentative agreement that additional functions will be given not to all peacekeeping troops, but only those stationed in the so-called "safe zone" which covers part of the Gali district of Abkhazia and the Zugdidi district of Georgia, a well-informed source in Sukhumi told Itar-Tass on Monday.

The mandate of the CIS peacekeeping force has been the "stumbling block" at the talks between Georgia and Abkhazia for a long time.

Georgia wanted the peacekeepers to get additional powers to step up the return of refugees to Abkhazia, but Abkhazian leaders strongly objected any changes in the peacekeepers' mandate.

During the consultations in Moscow, the parties plan to discuss political aspects of conflict settlement, including the status of Abkhazia.

Sukhumi takes the consultations in Moscow with cautious optimism, hoping that compromises will be found by the end of the week.

If the consultations prove successful, Georgian-Abkhazian talks may resume at the highest level in the very near future, Abkhazian officials said.

Georgia: Security Minister Says Former Security Chiefs Were Spies

LD1907190096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, July 19 (Interfax) — Former chief of the Georgian Security Service Igor Giorgadze and his former first deputy Timur Khachishvili have been agents of foreign special services, Georgian National Security Minister Shota Kviraya said during an expanded session of the Georgian government in Tbilisi on Friday.

The Cabinet met to consider the results of the law enforcement agencies' performance during the first half of 1996.

"Giorgadze has worked not only for the Russian special services but also for the special services of a Western European country," Kviraya said.

Giorgadze and Khachishvili had earlier been charged with involvement in the assassination attempt on the life of Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze in August 1995.

Giorgadze is currently in hiding abroad, while Khachishvili is in a Tbilisi prison awaiting trial.

The Georgian National Security Ministry has also discovered "separatist ideas" in the region of Samtzhe-Dzhavakhetia with a dense population of Armenians, Kviraya said, adding that "anti-Georgian organizations have been created there."

However, "the handful of persons with separatist ideas will fail to affect the fraternal relations between the Georgian and Armenian peoples," the minister said.

The Georgian Interior Ministry "has the situation in the country well in hand," Georgian Interior Minister Kakhi Targamadze said. A total of 81 percent of the crimes committed in Georgia in 1996 has been solved, whereas in 1995 Georgia solved only 65 percent of the crimes committed.

As many as 140 Georgian policemen have been sacked for various violations and irregularities since January 1, 1996, the interior minister said.

Georgia: Officers Accused of Ties With Foreign Secret Services

LD2007084096 Tbilisi BGI in Russian 1850 GMT 19 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received] Iran planned to set up a special group in Georgia to carry out instructions given by Iranian special services, Georgian Minister of State Security Shota Kviraia said at a meeting at the State Chancellery on 19 July. He said that it has been exposed that several officers of the ministry collaborated with foreign special services. There are officers like that in other government departments too, Kviraia emphasized. The minister also said that systematic Islamic propaganda was being carried out in Georgia, this being proved by confiscation to date of over 40,000 copies of propaganda publications in the Georgian language.

Georgia: North Ossetia Praises Continuation of Dialogue

LD2207150496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1346 GMT 22 Jul 96

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladikavkaz, July 22 (Itar-Tass) — North Ossetian leadership favours the continuation of constructive dialogue with Georgia and South

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Ossetia which, for the first time in the last three years since the armed confrontation in Tbilisi, Tskhinvali and Vladikavkaz, have met at the negotiating table to discuss the legal status of South Ossetia.

Georgiy Dzhigkayev, legal affairs adviser to the North Ossetian president, told Itar-Tass on Monday that Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze has expressed willingness to meet South Ossetian leader Lyudvig Chibirov within the next few days to discuss the issue of refugees in light of the May 16, 1996 memorandum "On Measures to Ensure the Security and Promote Mutual Trust Between the Parties to the Georgian-Ossetian Conflict."

The memorandum was signed by Russia, Georgia, South Ossetia, North Ossetia and a mission of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Georgia.

The document paves the way for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the region.

Dzhigkayev will lead North Ossetia's delegation to the six round of talks on the settlement of the Georgian-Ossetian conflict to be held in Vladikavkaz on July 3-24.

Georgia: S. Ossetia Leader Protests Shevardnadze 'Tskhinvali' Remark

LD2307103196 Tbilisi BGI in Russian 0820 GMT 23 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The following is a statement from A. Dzhidzhoyev, press secretary of the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Republic of South Ossetia:

On 15 July this year Georgian TV's "Vestnik" news program carried a report that the Georgian president had agreed to meet "Lyudvig Chibirov, the head of administration of the Tskhinvali region." The report went on to say that persons forcibly displaced from Tskhinvali must be allowed to return to their homes and that Georgia, being the state it is now, is prepared to resort to any measures to resolve this issue and ensure its territorial integrity.

As expected, this report by the "Vestnik" program has caused a rather negative reaction among the people of South Ossetia. It is obvious that such reports, to put it mildly, do not contribute to the creation of a favorable sociopolitical background ahead of the Shevardnadze-Chibirov meeting and is, in its essence, a continuation of the petty-imperialist ambitions of certain elements in the Georgian authorities. It is clear that such policies condemn the process of settlement of Georgian-Osetian relations to failure.

This report by the "Vestnik" program causes confusion also because it runs counter to the spirit and letter of the memorandum on measures to ensure security and build confidence between the sides in the Georgian-Ossetian conflict, which was signed in Moscow on 16 May and became an important landmark in overcoming existing differences. Unfortunately, it has to be stated once again that the tone and format of official TV programs are influenced by representatives of the authorities in Tbilisi who refuse to recognize the existing political realities and are still unable to force themselves to utter the original toponym of "South Ossetia."

In connection with the aforementioned, I am authorized to state that the republic created by the people of South Ossetia is an irrefutable reality. Furthermore, I am authorized to state that the forthcoming Shevardnadze-Chibirov meeting is a meeting of the leaders of two equal sides in the settlement process and any attempts to present it in a different light could jeopardize the entire negotiating process.

The South Ossetian side expresses the hope that this time common sense will prevail over ephemeral political ambitions, and the forthcoming meeting between the leaders of the two sides will give fresh momentum to the Georgian-Ossetian settlement process and will yield the results anticipated by our peoples.

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